



About RACQ CQ Rescue



your lifeline when you need it most

In 1994 a group of people within the Mackay community decided there was a need for a rescue helicopter service in the region. Already there were several rescue services operating in the major centres throughout Queensland but there was no dedicated service in Mackay at this time.

1996 - Our First Flight

Central Queensland Helicopter Rescue Service Limited, trading as CQ RESQ was founded and the first medical flight took place in September 1996.



2005 - New Look CQ Rescue

The spelling of the company name and logo was changed from CQ RESQ to CQ RESCUE in August 2005.

2005 - Dedicated Crew

By the end of 2006, a doctor and paramedic became dedicated crew members.



2007 - Over 400 Missions

With a medical crew readily available, by 2007 the helicopter service was now flying well over 400 missions each year. Having access to a medical crew who are available to fly at short notice has meant the frequency of life-threatening, critical missions around this time increased and are still regular today. Many of these patients would not be alive today without the services of RACQ CQ RESCUE.

Some of the types of missions attended to by the helicopter crew include inter-facility transfers (hospital to hospital), motor vehicle accidents and transfers from Whitsunday Islands and remote properties. The crew also conducts search and rescue missions at sea and over land.

Covering Central Qld

The RACQ CQ RESCUE service area extends to a 300 kilometre radius from Mackay which includes the majority of the Bowen Basin and the Whitsunday Islands. The boundaries are flexible with the helicopter often being tasked further afield when required for missions to Townsville, to remote properties (the longest mission was to Alpha in Central Queensland) and off the Queensland coastline, sometimes as far south as Gladstone.

Top Flight Technology

CQ RESCUE is one of a handful of rescue helicopters throughout Australia which is fitted with a FLIR (Forward Looking Infra Red). This up-to-date technology allows the crew to search for missing persons by scanning areas for body heat. Ideally this technology works best when the alarm is raised early when searching for people missing at sea or in bushland.

Here for the Community

CQ RESCUE is a community helicopter provider and while some funding is provided by the State Government it is primarily supported financially by corporations and the community.

About the Helicopter

The helicopter rescue service leases their helicopters from CHC Australia (the largest helicopter provider in the world). As part of the lease contract with CQ RESCUE, CHC provides CQ RESCUE with a Bell 412 as its primary aircraft as well as a reserve helicopter for use as required.

The Bell 412 is a twin-engine, single pilot helicopter with IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) capability.

CHC also provides CQ RESCUE with pilots, air crewmen and engineers who crew and maintain the helicopters.

The helicopters are fitted out as mini-emergency rooms and the helicopter and crew are on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Unless safety is a factor, the crew cannot refuse a task.

Dial 000

To access the rescue helicopter service, tasking is initiated by dialling '000'. Emergency Services Departments will dispatch the RACQ CQ RESCUE helicopter if they deem it necessary.

A FREE Lifesaving Service

The helicopter rescue service is free to all Australians and is often a lifeline in many regions. More and more frequently it is the only chance of survival for some patients.

We Rely On your Donations

As a community helicopter service, CQ RESCUE relies on the community for financial support to keep the service operational. Donations can be made to CQ RESCUE by downloading a donation form on our website www.cqrescue.com.au or phoning the CQ RESCUE office on (07) 4957 8181 with your credit card details.

Find out more

For information relating to sponsorship, business donations, Rescue 100 Club or fundraising events please call Leonie Hansen at CQ RESCUE on (07) 4957 8181 or 0427 578 182.