



Course Report 26 April 2018

The COASTN Aeromedical Retrieval Course was held 16th – 20th April 2018. This was held in the fantastic facilities at the AUT South Auckland Campus.

Sixteen people in total attended: 14 New Zealand flight nurses and 2 Australian flight nurses. The decision to drop the attendance number to 16 has proven to be an excellent decision. This made the HUET and simulation training a lot more manageable and as a result improved the learning opportunity and the overall experience.

The following flight services were represented:

- Whangarei (1)
- PICU (1)
- Hawkes Bay (1)
- Wanganui (1)
- Wellington (3)
- Dunedin (1)
- Gisborne (2)
- NZAAS (2)
- Tauranga (2)
- Western Australia: Royal Flying Doctor Service (1)
- Brisbane: Lady Cilento Hospital – paediatric retrieval service (1)

APPLICANTS

In total for this year's course there were sixteen New Zealand applicants and three Australian applicants i.e. 19 applicants for a total of 16 places.

One New Zealand applicant withdrew in the early stages of course preparation ie before the teleconference to decide who was being accepted onto the course.

One New Zealand applicant was stood down at the time of the teleconference. This required some management post her being notified of this.

One Australian applicant was not able to attend/was stood down due to not being a Flight Nurse Australia member (please see later in this report).

TIMETABLE

This ran very smoothly over the week. All speakers were on time – two flying in from Wellington; one from Hawkes Bay. One speaker was on his way back (driving) from Hawkes Bay to Northland.

Jane Goessi: started the week beautifully as she always does. She gets the students talking, interacting, looking at their communication styles, talking about ways of

dealing with stress and team work. This session sets up very positive group dynamics which have lasting influence for the rest of the week. Jane works in the private sector as a human resource consultant. She continues to very kindly donate her time to this course.

Throughout the course, themes re-occurred even though they were coming from different speakers. This spontaneous reinforcement from different practitioners within the aeromedical field reinforced messages particularly around safety, fatigue management and crew resource management.

HUET

Held on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th at Denray Marine, East Tamaki, Auckland. Eight people were in each group.

This was reviewed extremely well by everyone. All participated and passed. The feedback on their experience of doing this training, and how the training was conducted was entirely positive. The students could understand the benefit of doing the HUET.

SIMULATIONS

Once again the simulation days were very competently managed by the simulation team – Chantel and Sam Love; Angela Russell and Tamsin Irvine-Fynn. Chantel, Sam and Angela all flew from the Hawkes Bay. Of note, Sam and Chantel have managed to fit this in to their schedule of moving their lives and family to Australia.

The simulation team now wear the same shirts providing a professional look as well as being easily identifiable.

The simulations were held at Ardmore Airport in the Warbird's hangar, in a **King Air 350**. Importantly this plane has once again been provided **free of charge by NZAAS** who continue to support this course with this very generous gesture.

The mannequins and a ventilator were supplied free of charge by the AUT paramedicine unit.

The 'disposable' simulation gear was provided by the PICU retrieval team.

The monitoring, an i-simulate monitor, was provided free of charge by i-simulate, Australia.

The simulation training was of interest to the Warbird's staff. Comments on this training are/have being placed in the Warbirds newsletter and facebook page.

OUTDOOR LAND SURVIVAL

Provided by Stu Gilbert, SOS Survival Training.

This was held in the West Coast bush towards Muriwai Beach. This is a fantastic way to end the week. This is a hugely positive, practical and interactive learning session that was enjoyed by all. The feedback was excellent.

AUSTRALIAN FLIGHT NURSES

This is the second year two Australian flight nurses have attended. Their presence continues to highlight the organisational differences that flight nurses between the two countries work within and as a consequence the type of support and recognition that is received for their work.

Australian flight nurses who belong to Flight Nurses Australia (FNA) can attend the course; non FNA flight nurses cannot attend. It became evident this year that this needs to be made more clear by FNA and COASTN as there was some confusion surrounding this for the Australian applicants of which there were three. This was duly managed.

FINANCIAL

Financial reimbursement this year is being done by automatic reimbursement. At the time of writing this report this is a system I am still gaining familiarity with.

There were two late payments from applicants; both have been charged \$1,600.00. This was enforced as there had been no contact/conversations about payment from the two services prior to March 12th which was the cut-off date before the late payment fee was applied.

It needs to be noted that moderate sums of money from people's own personal bank accounts go towards supporting this course until such time they can be reimbursed.

EXAM

All the students have passed their exam

ASSIGNMENT

This has been reduced from 6-7 questions to 3.

Students have been provided with a booklet that gives them academic level 8 writing advice, the AUT marking criteria grid, the assignment questions and referencing information. This was kindly put together by Celeita Williams, the paramedicine tutor who continues to mark these assignments on our behalf.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- I strongly recommend that this course remain with a **total** number of 16 attending.
- To continue the strong working relationship (MOU) with AUT
- To continue developing COASTN's relationship with FNA and to continue to have two Australian flight nurses on the course
- To facilitate understanding for the Australian nurses there should be a brief session at the beginning of the course on: how the flight services are organized in NZ and how this impacts on the way NZ flight nurses work and their working conditions eg: funding, hours, airframes worked in, flight team structure. Conversely, there should be a brief presentation on how aeromedical work and flight nursing is organized in Australia.

- Maps of Australia and NZ so that there can be geographical appreciation of distance and also of the differing terrains.
- All practical components to remain with the same operators.
- The course needs ongoing confirmed sponsorship, preferably secured for the next few years so there is financial security.
- Aim to keep the fee at \$1,500.00. Currently this seems to be achievable for flight nurses.

SIMULATION TEAM

I strongly recommend that the simulation team remain together. They are a cohesive team that continually seek ways to improve the learning experience that the students gain from their simulation training. This team is a huge part of the success of this course and I completely trust their input.

Sam and Chantel Love are very keen to return to New Zealand next year to continue with the simulation work on this course. However sponsorship would need to be secured to pay for their return tickets to Australia. For the continuing standard and reputation of this course I would recommend that COASTN facilitate this. Sponsorship must be found.

SUMMARY

This has been a very successful course. The week has run very smoothly. Everyone has interacted well. From spontaneous feedback, having the chance to talk with other colleagues; being given information to question current practices; to question their own knowledge and personal practice; be exposed to different perspectives; to learn what is happening outside of New Zealand - how other services function and what happens for other flight nurses internationally – and to have the opportunity to learn new skills and to learn from one another has been very well received and appreciated. The written feedback supports this.

Di Fuller

COASTN Aeromedical Retrieval Course Co-ordinator