

Training

There are various levels and qualifications involved in the ambulance service:

To become an ambulance officer qualified with basic life support you need:

- a New Zealand Diploma in Ambulance Practice (Level 5)
- a full Class 1 driver's licence and good driving record

Ambulance officers usually start as volunteers, before working towards the national diploma. They can become intermediate life support paramedics by completing further qualifications.

To become a paramedic is by completing a three year Bachelor of Health Sciences (Paramedic) at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) or Whitireia Community Polytechnic. University Entrance and a drivers' licence are required and there is a selection process, with an interview. Prior experience such as Youth St John, volunteer in the ambulance service or an associated field such as nursing or army medic is advantageous.

Subjects that will help most with this degree are English, biology, chemistry and health science subjects.

Personal Qualities

Paramedics need to get on well with people and be good communicators. They also need to be:

- able to make sound judgements
- responsible and caring
- team players
- able to work under pressure and remain calm in emergencies.

Paramedics must be physically fit and healthy.



Information collated by NZIRH
Where to go for more information:

www.kiwihealthjobs.com

www.careers.govt.nz

www.kiaorahauora.co.nz

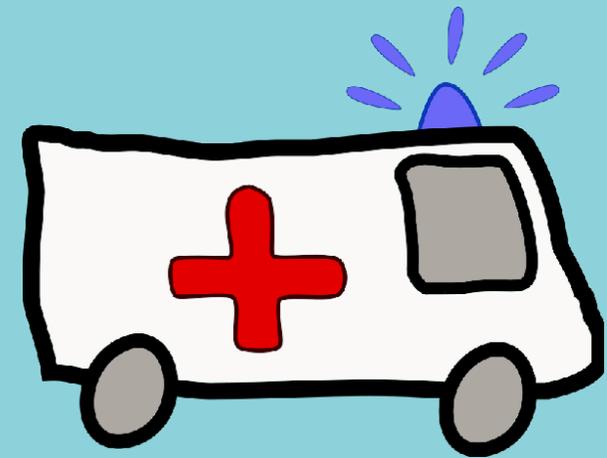
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Paramedic



Paramedics

Paramedics deal with sick and/or injured people at accident scenes or in a medical emergency. They transport patients to hospitals or other medical facilities. Paramedics also transport patients between hospitals or from home to hospital.

They use field diagnosis, medical procedures and treatment to stabilise patients then provide medical care during the trip to a hospital.

Job opportunities for experienced paramedics are average as although government funding for the ambulance service has increased, competition is high.

Job opportunities for volunteers are better in rural areas than urban areas. St John has a waiting list for volunteers wishing to join in urban areas.

What do they do?

Paramedics:

- attend accidents and emergencies
- treat ill and injured people at accident or emergency sites
- stabilise patients for transport by treating shock and injuries
- transport patients to and from medical facilities
- be on hand at large gatherings, such as sports events, in case of accidents or illness
- work with other emergency services, such as fire and police, at emergency scenes

Senior paramedics may do specialised rescue work in air ambulances.

Paramedics may provide treatments such as intravenous therapy, resuscitation or giving cardiac drugs. They may work in front line emergency ambulances, rapid response units, helicopters or search and rescue teams. Every day is different with a diverse range of people and interesting challenges.

Where do Ambulance Officers work?

St John is the largest employer of paramedics, and provides services for about 95% of New Zealand's population.

St. John - www.stjohn.org.nz

Wellington Free Ambulance is an independent ambulance service.

Wellington Free Ambulance - www.wellingtonfreeambulance.org.nz

Paramedics also work in:

- Air rescue services, such as the Westpac Rescue Helicopter
- International relief work
- Safety services and emergency management
- An environment where out-of-hospital emergency care and management may be required such as:
 - oil rigs
 - industrial sites
 - ski fields
 - defence forces
 - disasters