

Accidents and Emergencies

The local GAC agent was quick to contact the Centre when he learnt that the Chief Cook onboard a Car Carrier had suffered a stroke whilst the ship was underway off the coast of the North Island. Initially flown to Whangarei Hospital by helicopter, we had our colleagues at Marsden Point standing by to offer support.

He was rushed to Auckland Hospital for emergency surgery. Our team visited him to supply a mobile phone charger and welfare pack. For many days the Cook had lost the ability to speak or write—it was very distressing for all involved.

Regular updates from the agent ensured he received several welfare visits from our team until he was successfully repatriated to India on King's Birthday weekend.

He had regained the power of speech before his homeward journey!

Meanwhile, at South Port the MV Olivia was involved in a well publicized accident in the Engine Room. Our Bluff Seafarers Centre team had already been offering sightseeing and hospitality to the crew in the days leading up to the incident. They continued to offer support to the crew, whilst we handed the accident case over to the Lyttelton Seafarers Centre, who visited the most injured seafarer in the local hospital.

Massey University Study

The Auckland team were eager to meet with Dr Maria Borovnik to discuss her work exploring the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on seafarers. Dr Borovnik showed great interest in learning about seafarers' welfare work in Auckland. We hope our stories from the Pandemic will assist in the ongoing reflection about how New Zealand responded to the unique challenges of Covid-19.

This study is funded by Te Apārangi - The Royal Society of New Zealand Marsden Fund, 2023.

E-SIM Cards

Maritime Welfare has established an agreement to supply E-SIM to seafarers in our ports.

E-SIMs will allow crew to stay in contact with loved ones whilst the travel throughout the region or globally. Local SIM cards can only be used in New Zealand waters, so they may be of limited value to ships who are only visit one or two local ports.

Auckland Zoo

The Centre now promotes the Zoo as a sightseeing option and as part of the Zoo's campaign to improve well-being through encounters with wildlife at the Zoo.

If crew wish to visit the Zoo, our team can arrange transportation.