



Well done partner:
Paramedics Andrew Bonnitcha and Carolyn Sinclair congratulate each other on the safe delivery of three babies.

Baby boom for ambos

By KATE LANCASTER

LATROBE Valley paramedics have experienced an unusual case load delivering four babies within hours of each other.

Two crews assisted in the safe arrival of the babies, which included one set of twins.

For Traralgon-based crew Carolyn Sinclair and Andrew Bonnitcha the excitement started on Sunday night.

"The first job was to pick up the NETS (Newborn Emergency Transport Service) team from the airport and bring them in - they were going to be involved in the delivery of twins by emergency caesarean," Ms Sinclair said.

The NETS team asked the local crew for additional assistance.

"We thought we were just bringing them in and dropping them off but we ended up staying with them and got involved in the delivery," Ms Sinclair said.

"We eventually transported them back and put them on the plane." The twin boys were also flown to hospital in Melbourne.

The next special delivery arrived within hours.

"Then about five o'clock the next morning, we were here on another case when a man pulled up in the ambulance bay saying that his wife was in labour," Ms Sinclair said.

"By the time we got out bubs was basically there."

Mr Bonnitcha also provided a supportive role in the delivery of another baby boy.

"I actually arrived and I got the stretcher out," Mr Bonnitcha said.

"Emergency nurse Paul Hicks actually had mum in the front seat and passed the new baby to mum," Mr Bonnitcha said.

"I went around to the back of the ambulance to get a cord clamp and clamped the umbilical cord.

"I just provided a fair bit of reassurance for mum who was fairly excited, probably a bit more shocked than anything else.

"We just popped her onto the stretcher and the maternity nurse was down here as well.

"We took her up to maternity and they were all happy."

Mr Bonnitcha is relatively new to the ambulance service and had previously worked as a nurse.

This was the first time however he had been involved in delivering babies.

"It's pretty rare and when you consider the crew at Morwell actually delivered a baby on the same night as well, that's pretty rare."

At yet another baby delivery the Morwell ambulance crew actually delivered the baby at home.

"They were called to the home saying the birth was imminent, it sure was imminent," Mr Bonnitcha said.

The paramedics agreed the baby boom was a pleasant end to a busy time following the heatwave.