

Bathurst plane crash: Dead pilot's partner will fly on

SHAYA LAUGHLIN, The Daily Telegraph
June 19, 2017 12:00am

THE partner of a pilot who died in a plane crash near Bathurst at the weekend says she will keep flying because crashes are part of “the nature of the job”.

The aviation community was in mourning last night after experienced pilot Jason Spencer was found dead in his plane after an extensive ground and air search.

The 44-year-old's partner Catherine Alvarez Loquias, a helicopter pilot, said it had been a tough couple of days for the industry.

“With any death in aviation, it's a shock, it's always a shock,” she said.

“Over the years, you do learn quickly that it is part of it. This is kind of the nature of the job.”



Pilot Jason Spencer was killed when his plane crashed near Bathurst at the weekend. Picture: Supplied

Mr Spencer was working as an agricultural pilot and took off from an airfield at Upper Turon, about 50km north of Bathurst, on Friday afternoon but did not return as scheduled.

Emergency services were called about an hour later but the plane could not be found.

A search resumed on Saturday morning and the light aircraft was found about 8.30am with Mr Spencer's body inside.

Ms Alvarez Loquias said Mr Spencer, a father of one, was a very experienced pilot.

“He's been doing low-level flying for at least 15 years ... he's done it all overseas, in Africa and all over Australia,” she said.



Mr Spencer's brother Matt said a part of him had died when he found out about the pilot's death. Picture: Supplied

"We don't know what has happened, that's for the Aviation Safety Bureau to find out."

Ms Alvarez Loquias said it would be hard for her to get back in a plane after the fatal crash but that she would keep flying.

Mr Spencer's brother Matt said a part of him had died when he found out about the pilot's death.

"I will miss his wisdom and always remember the chaos inflicted on Brisbane every time we were together," he wrote on social media.

"He'd tell me, dry your eyes princess, if I mourned his death instead of celebrating his life.

"It's not easy for those of us left behind but I promise he'd appreciate the respect he's earned more than the grief we are feeling right now."

Extracted from: <http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/bathurst-plane-crash-dead-pilots-partner-will-fly-on/news-story/63583a0d719363f430d0d62768003c99>

On 19/06/17 at 11:15:21