



Media Release

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## **'Flying Doctor' on song for the *Outback Christmas Train***

A newly penned Christmas song in support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) will feature as part of this year's *Indian Pacific Outback Christmas Train* which brings festive season cheer to communities along the transcontinental rail journey from Sydney to Perth.

School children along the 4,352 kilometre route have joined singer Adam Thompson in creating and recording '*Bring on Christmas Day*' the sale of which will raise funds for the RFDS, the major charity partner of Great Southern Rail's *Indian Pacific Outback Christmas Train*.

Father Christmas will, as usual, play a starring role as he brings Christmas wishes to children – including those on remote Nullarbor communities where families travel up to six hours from Yalata and Oak Valley to meet the train at Watson in South Australia and in Rawlinna in remote Western Australia.

The public are welcome to join Adam and his band Chocolate Starfish and local school children as they perform live at the following train stop platform free concerts:

- Bathurst – 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7:30pm
- Broken Hill – 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7:15am
- Watson – 5<sup>th</sup> December at 09:00am
- Rawlinna – 5<sup>th</sup> December at 3.15pm
- Kalgoorlie – 5<sup>th</sup> December at 9:00pm

Due to time and logistical constraints all concerts along the route will be held at the train station, not the school at the times stated above provided the train is running to schedule. At Broken Hill the children from Morgan Street Public School will attend the concert, the town's second involvement with Chocolate Starfish this year.

During September Adam worked with school children in Bathurst and Broken Hill in NSW, Yalata in South Australia and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia to each compose a verse of *Bring on Christmas Day*. The song is available for purchase on iTunes now for \$1.69.

The RFDS provides aeromedical emergency evacuation assistance and essential primary health care services to more than 280,000 people a year – that's one person every two minutes – who live, work and travel in rural and remote Australia.

Greg Sam, Chief Executive Officer of RFDS South Eastern Section said the organisation was delighted to once again be part of the *Indian Pacific Outback Christmas Train* and to have off-duty operational staff on the journey to help raise awareness of the work of the Flying Doctor.

"We receive extraordinary support from people in the bush and the *Indian Pacific Outback Christmas Train* gives us a chance to thank those communities for their support and to help spread the Christmas cheer far and wide," Mr Sam said.

Since 1928, the RFDS has taken the finest care to the furthest corners and today provides a range of health services including remote oral and dental care, mental health services, Healthy Living Program, a Rural Women's GP Service as well as fly-in primary health clinics to remote communities.

In the past year alone, the RFDS has flown more than 26 million kilometres with its fleet of 63 aircraft conducting more than 75,000 landings.

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For more information or photographs, contact:  
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#### **ABOUT THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE**

The not-for-profit Royal Flying Doctor Service has been taking the finest care to the furthest corners of Australia since 1928. The service provides 24 hour emergency cover to 90% of the Australian continent, via a modern fleet of specially equipped aircraft. In the past year, the South Eastern Section flew the equivalent of 6.25 round trips to the moon as it conducted over 5,000 clinics, took over 6,000 telehealth calls, had over 53,000 patient contacts and transported almost 8,400 patients.