



Media Release

2 March 2015

## **Flying Doctor to Speak at Isolated Children Conference**

A representative from the South Eastern Section of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS SE) will speak at the annual Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia conference. This year the NSW conference is being hosted by the Broken Hill branch on 4 and 5 March.

Steve Martin, Base Manager at the RFDS Broken Hill, will speak alongside representatives from: the Department of Education, Distance Education Schooling and University Admissions Centre and the Minister for Western New South Wales.

"With 87 years of experience providing emergency evacuation and primary health services to rural and remote areas and a strong historical connection to remote education through School of the Air, the RFDS SE are delighted to attend the 2015 IPCA conference," said Mr Martin.

"The RFDS fits into the general theme of the conference, which is increasing opportunities in rural and remote areas."

"The provision of good quality essential services, such as health and education, is essential to maintaining the social fabric in Outback areas and retaining the existing population. The primary reason that the RFDS was founded was to enable people to settle in remote areas of Australia."

The Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) is a voluntary, not for profit organisation with its roots firmly embedded in rural and remote Australia. Founded during 1972 in Bourke, ICPA is now a national organisation with approximately 1,000 members in 30 branches across NSW.

Its mission is to increase educational opportunities for rural and remote students, from early childhood through schooling and into tertiary education.

"ICPA is an energetic and proactive organisation that has done much in the last 43 years to raise awareness of the issues faced by geographically isolated parents in accessing an appropriate education for their children," said Duncan Taylor, President of ICPA NSW.

"As educational standards rise and educational outcomes and expectations increase, so too does the work of ICPA, lobbying governments to ensure remote kids get equitable access to a high standard of education."

"State conferences give members, through their branch delegates, the opportunity to bring issues affecting rural and remote access to education for debate and a vote. This sets the policy agenda for councillors to pursue during the coming year."

The IPCA conference will be held at The Musicians Club, 276 Crystal Street, Broken Hill NSW 2880 starting at 08.45 am on Tuesday, 3 March, 2015 and 09.00 am on Wednesday, 4 March.

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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.