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Attention: News Editor/Chief of Staff

MEDIA RELEASE

Check out the Flying Doctors during Australia Day Sky Show

The Royal Flying Doctor Service will take to the skies above Perth for the Australia Day Sky Show today, showcasing the very best of modern technology and medical expertise which saves thousands of Western Australian lives every year.

The RFDS will have two of its Pilatus PC12s and the Rio Tinto Life Flight Jet as part of the air show on Australia Day.

Royal Flying Doctor Service Executive General Manager of Corporate Affairs Nick Harvey said today will provide a great opportunity for people to catch a glimpse of the state of the art technology and innovation demonstrated by the Flying Doctors and a reminder that they continue to be there for West Australians wherever and whenever they are needed.

“Last year, we flew more than eight million kilometres, and provided emergency health care in the air to over nine thousand patients,” Mr Harvey said.

“It doesn’t matter whether you are in Busselton, Albany, a remote community north of Broome or close by at Rottnest Island – the RFDS will be there whenever needed.

“We use the latest in aviation, medical and communications technology and deliver extensive primary health care and 24-hour emergency service to those who live, work and travel right around WA.

“If you’re a patient on board one of our aircraft it is the equivalent of being in an emergency department in a major hospital; it is an intensive care unit with a highly qualified doctor and nurse on board who are capable of managing any emergency.”

The Rio Tinto Life Flight Jet provides one of the fastest - and certainly the most comprehensively outfitted – aero medical retrieval service in Australia. Rio Tinto has had a close partnership with the RFDS for more than 10 years.

“As the state’s population grows, we must remain at the forefront of innovation by developing and utilising the very latest in technology and state of the art equipment, and providing the very best aero medical care available anywhere in the world.”

The RFDS has been providing life-saving services to Western Australians for more than 80 years and today has five operating bases, a fleet of 15 aircraft, and a staff of around 300.

To donate to the RFDS call 1300 669 569 or check out www.flyingdoctor.org.au

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