



Royal Flying Doctor Service

The furthest corner. The finest care.

First new RFDS facility in WA in 50 years opens today in Broome

For May 11, 2016

The first new Royal Flying Doctor Service facility in Western Australia in 50 years will be officially opened today in Broome.

RFDS chief executive officer Grahame Marshall said “This is a significant milestone for the Flying Doctor and will not only increase our physical footprint, but most importantly build our capability in delivering the most effective aero medical care to all West Australians, 365 days per year.”

Mr Marshall said demand for our life saving services has increased substantially in the Kimberley region over the past 5 years, and the new facilities will ensure the RFDS can continue to meet the increasing and changing patient demand for our aero medical services in the north in the fastest and most efficient way.

“Last year alone, the RFDS flew over 1,100 patients to and from Broome, making it our busiest transport hub in the north of the state.”

The RFDS now has 15 Broome-based RFDS crew members in town; including four doctors, five nurses and five pilots.

“This is the first new RFDS facility in more than 50 years and we, along with the people in the Kimberley, are very excited,” Mr Marshall said.

“With two aircraft hangars and a state of the art patient treatment centre; the introduction of additional capacity to Broome will mean the RFDS is better placed to more quickly respond to emergencies throughout the Kimberley and the Pilbara, enabling reduced flight times, and ultimately providing better outcomes for patients in the region.”

The development and delivery of the new RFDS Broome facilities, including the construction and fit out of the two new hangars and patient treatment facility has received strong financial support from the Australian Government.

A Lotterywest grant has enabled the acquisition of operational equipment and information technology systems for the new facilities.

The RFDS provides emergency care, lifesaving outcomes, and health treatment and advice to almost 70,000 people in Western Australia every year and has done now in WA for more than 80 years. To donate to the RFDS call 1300 669 569 or check out

www.flyingdoctor.org.au

Interview and picture opportunity

When: Wednesday May 11

Time: 2.00pm with RFDS CEO Grahame Marshall, tours of the new facilities

Where: RFDS Broome

**Media contact, Donna Cole, LastSay Communications; 0419 901229 or
donna@lastsay.net.au**