



## Royal Flying Doctor Service

*The furthest corner. The finest care.*

August 11, 2016

### **Flying Doctor and Karara Mining keep country kids smiling**

Dozens of country children are able to keep smiling due to a partnership between the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Karara Mining which provides mobile dental health services to several towns in the Wheatbelt and Midwest regions.

RFDS Chief Executive Officer Grahame Marshall said in addition to the mobile dental service, the RFDS collaborates with Dental Health Services WA, to provide much needed oral health services to communities in the Warburton Shire and Wiluna.

“We were able to showcase the partnership and what it means to local communities at the recent McIntosh & Son Mingenew Midwest Expo, held at Mingenew,” Mr Marshall said.

The event, now in its 34<sup>th</sup> year, is the largest agricultural field day in Western Australia's Midwest.

Mr Marshall said the success of these programs has resulted in Dental Health Services signing a contract with the RFDS for a further three years and negotiations are advancing for a further three-year contract with Karara Mining Ltd.

Karara Mining and RFDS having been providing dental services via the Mobile Dental Unit for just over two years. The service is very well used by people who live, work and travel through the Shires of Mingenew, Morawa and Perenjori.

More than 600 people have benefited from the service during the past 12 months, with a dentist and a dental assistant treating patients at clinics and providing people with oral health education and basic dietary advice about how to keep teeth healthy.

Mr Marshall said that this dental program was one of the many services the RFDS delivered to West Australians both on the ground and in the air across our State.

“We have flown over 9,000 sick and injured patients to hospitals across our vast state, and we’ve received nearly 40,000 telephone calls for medical assistance and advice,” he said.

“Our pilots made over 16,500 landings and flew 7,764,000 kilometres to the furthest reaches of Western Australia.

Mr Marshall said many of the patients treated and evacuated by the RFDS lived in the Perth metropolitan area and travelled to regional and remote areas for work or holidays.

“Whether you’re travelling to the Wheatbelt for work or Broome for a getaway, the Flying Doctor will be there whenever you need us.”

RFDS aircraft are specially outfitted with the latest in medical and aviation technology and are flying intensive care units, operated by highly qualified medical teams and pilots who provide life-saving outcomes for our patients.

Over the past 12 months, the RFDS has touched the lives of over 60,000 people through aero medical retrievals, GP, and dental clinics and the telehealth service.

To donate to the RFDS, call 1800 669 569 or visit [www.flyingdoctor.org.au](http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au).

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