



## Royal Flying Doctor Service

*The furthest corner. The finest care.*

### Flying Doctor leads the way with technology

For September 29, 2016

The Royal Flying Doctor Service says state of the art replacement patient monitoring technology on board its aircraft is smaller, lighter and smarter and will result in even better medical treatment for West Australians.

RFDS Deputy Director of Medical Services Director of Medical Services Dr Angela O'Connell said the Zoll X monitors mean that every stretcher on board an RFDS aircraft will now be like a fully monitored bed in a hospital emergency department.

"This equipment combines the functions of a critical care monitor with a defibrillator and pacemaker – all in the one unit," Dr O'Connell said.

"The devices are smaller and lighter and have a broader range of monitoring capabilities than those currently in use.

"This equipment has improved features and is robust, able to handle 'tough' conditions, being resistant to dust, water and impact. The monitors are also able to operate on batteries, have integrated WiFi and a large colour LED screen which is user friendly for staff working on board our aircraft."

Dr O'Connell said the Zoll monitors also have a split screen which means medical staff can view an ECG in real time while simultaneously reading patient analysis information, while the WiFi technology opens up options for improved data transfer.

She said the Flying Doctors is also trialling the latest technology in portable ultra sound equipment.

"Ultrasound is now considered an extension of the physical examination in emergency and critical care medicine," Dr O'Connell said.

"Ultrasound allows greater diagnostic capacity and also greatly increases the safety of some of the more invasive procedures we need to perform on patients from time to time.

"RFDS has been utilising this technology for some time and the new ultra-lightweight, handheld devices are now available and we are currently trialling a couple with a view to having them available for all flights.

"As with all new equipment purchases, we need to go through a thorough process of assessing functionality, durability, and battery life to suit the complex environment that we work in."

RFDS Chief Executive Officer Grahame Marshall said whilst critical care monitoring has always been an integral part of the aeromedical treatment provided by the Flying Doctor, the newer technology equipment is another example of the RFDS remaining at the forefront of innovation and ensuring patients receive the best possible treatment anywhere and at any time they need it.

“The Flying Doctor has embraced technology such as the Zoll X monitors, developed specifically for the military and aero medical operations,” Mr Marshall said.

“Many of our patient flights are in uncertain weather conditions and landing on unsealed, dirt or gravel remote air strips around the state so it is important that we have the most robust and best possible medical and aviation technology on board our aircraft.”

The RFDS provides emergency care, life-saving outcomes, and health treatment and advice to almost 70,000 people in Western Australia every year and has done now in WA for over 80 years.

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

-ends-

### **Interview and vision opportunity for 9 News only**

**When:** Thursday September 29, 2016  
**Time:** 1pm – 2.30pm  
**Where:** RFDS Eagle Drive, Jandakot

**Media contact, Donna Cole, LastSay Communications; 0419 901 229 or [donna@lastsay.net.au](mailto:donna@lastsay.net.au)**