



## Royal Flying Doctor Service

*The furthest corner. The finest care.*

### **Flying Doctor welcomes funding to meet On-going record level demand (Media opportunity details over page)**

July 18, 2016

The Royal Flying Doctor Service has welcomed the Liberal National Government's Royalties for Regions investment for further capital funding of \$23.7 million to assist the Flying Doctor to continue to meet patient demand which remains at record levels.

RFDS Chief Executive Officer Grahame Marshall said the funding will contribute to the purchase of two additional aircraft, two replacement aircraft, and the establishment of the new Broome operating facility.

"We currently operate a fleet of 15 aircraft comprising of 14 Pilatus PC12s and the Rio Tinto Life Flight jet.

"Given the continued high level of need for our aero medical services, which in turn drives the high number of hours our aircraft operate, and the huge distances they cover, aircraft need to be replaced after about 10 years, and we have two due for replacement over the next six months," Mr Marshall said.

"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."

Mr Marshall said services in the state's north had also been given a boost with the recent opening of the new RFDS Broome patient treatment and aero medical operating facilities.

"This new funding will enable us to place an additional aircraft at our Broome facility, further boosting our capacity to provide world leading aero medical care and emergency response to people living and working in the Kimberley region.

"Last year the RFDS provided aero medical assistance to 25 patients per day on average, across all parts of Western Australia.

"Demand for aero medical retrievals in WA remains at record levels, and we are working hard to continue to ensure that we are always there, wherever and whenever West Australians needs us.

"We thank the State Government's Royalties for Regions program for their ongoing support of the RFDS, which has allowed us to bring the new aircraft to the Kimberley community and further boost our response capabilities for all Western Australians."

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).

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**Interview and picture opportunity**

**When:** Monday July 18

**Time:** 1.45pm for a 2pm announcement

**Where:** Aircraft hangar, RFDS Eagle Drive, Jandakot

**Who:** Health Minister John Day, Minister for Regional Development Terry Redman, RDS CEO Grahame Marshall

**Footwear:** Please wear closed in shoes

**Media contact, Donna Cole, LastSay Communications; 0419 901 229 or donna@lastsay.net.au**