



Royal Flying Doctor Service

The furthest corner. The finest care.

MEDIA STATEMENT

Great Southern volunteers help keep the flying doctor flying

May 2, 2016

Volunteers from the Great Southern region are continuing to help keep the Royal Flying Doctor Service in the air.

This week, during National Volunteer Week (May 9-15), reminds us just how valuable our many volunteers are for the Flying Doctor, RFDS Chairman Neville Bassett AM said.

“We are so grateful to all of our volunteers for the hard work they do, from fundraising in their own communities to organizing local activities to raise both money and awareness,” Mr Bassett said.

“The contribution of our volunteers helps us to minimize our fundraising costs and ensure that more of the fundraising dollar goes directly towards our primary mission of providing aero medical care to Western Australians wherever and whenever they need us.”

Mr Bassett said in the last year, the RFDS provided medical assistance to nearly 70,000 people through aero medical retrievals, telehealth consults and primary health care clinics across Western Australia - providing lifesaving intensive care in flight to 25 patients per day on average.

“That’s more than one person every hour of the day,” Mr Bassett said.

“The demand for our services is constantly growing and changing, and during the past 12 months the RFDS transferred 576 patients from the Great Southern region, averaging 11 patients per week.

“Seven patients were transferred from the region on the busiest day and many patients transferred locally were children aged under the age of 15.”

The RFDS responds to a range of medical conditions, the most common in the Great Southern being as a result of cardiovascular diseases – these included 124 heart attack patients, while there were also a large number transported due to injury and poisoning.

Mr Bassett said the flying doctors, during the past 12 months alone, transported over 9000 sick and injured patients to hospitals across the state for treatment, and received over 41,000 telephone calls for medical assistance and advice.

“It is only due to the support of volunteers that we are able to continue to provide urgent

assistance to West Australians wherever and whenever they need us, 365 days a year," Mr Bassett said.

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

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