



Royal Flying Doctor Service

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Royal Flying Doctor flight nurse Jeannette Spark says she has the best office window in the world.

“My office one day might be in the Kimberley flying over Horizontal Falls or the next day somewhere in the south of the state, I never know what the view will be from one day to the next,” Jeannette said.

The dynamic 32 year-old spent six months at a remote nursing post at Fitzroy Crossing before taking up her role with the RFDS two years ago. She said delivering babies and treating people in very remote communities was a good training ground for her current job.

“Working in the Kimberley was a good lead in to my job with the RFDS but there is nothing like the variety of my current role with the flying doctors,” Jeannette said.

“I never know what kind of job we will go to from one day to the next and there is the opportunity to interact with a lot of different people including health providers, clinicians and of course patients.

“The flying aspect and working in a range of weather conditions also makes life interesting and there are so many factors our team must consider that don’t need to be taken into account if working in a hospital environment – like turbulence, weather and working inside a very confined space.”

Jeannette describes her job at the RFDS as the most rewarding thing in the world.

“Working in a role where you have the chance to improve the quality of care for a patient being treated by a doctor and a nurse in the air while being flown to hospital, is amazing.

“Our planes have equipment on board that is equivalent to a flying intensive care unit so anyone retrieved by the flying doctors is really getting the best care possible as soon as we reach them.”

Jeannette says there are times when she becomes quite attached to patients, especially young children and babies.

“Some patients also say ‘thank God you are here’ as soon as we arrive, they hear the plane on approach and are very pleased to see us.

“Working at the RFDS really is the pinnacle of my career, I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else,” she said.

RFDS Chief Executive Officer Grahame Marshall said to continue to meet the needs of West Australians right around our vast state, the flying doctors must maintain its proud 86 year history of innovation and efficiency and continually look for new ways to ensure to improve capability and its reach and build a strong and sustainable foundation for the business into the future, so that the organisation can always be there, whenever and wherever people need help.

“We currently operate a fleet of 15 aircraft comprising of 14 Pilatus PC12s and one Hawker 800XP jet. Given the continued and growing patient need for our services, and the vast distances we cover across Western Australia, which drives the high number of hours our aircraft operate, they need to be replaced after about 10 years. In order to do this we rely heavily on the continued support of the West Australian community,” Mr Marshall said.

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

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