

Media Release

14 December, 2016

Aircraft incidents - update

As investigations into yesterday's unrelated incidents at Essendon and Moomba continue, the RFDS would like to provide updates about what occurred and how we are responding.

Our safety teams are currently at both locations assessing the aircraft and trying to determine the cause of each incident. While no one was injured in either incident counselling support has been made available to all those involved.

We would like to provide an update based on the information we have at present.

In Essendon, VIC the facts are;

- The initial stages of the landing were normal. It was only towards the end of the landing sequence that the aircraft sustained a right hand under carriage failure.
- There were six people on board in total; two patients, along with an observer, two flight nurses and a pilot.
- This was a non-emergency patient transfer flight and the patients were transferred as planned.
- Our non-emergency patient transfer services out of Essendon are currently suspended, but the rest of our services across the South Eastern Section are operating as normal. We are working to get Essendon services back to normal as soon as possible.

In Moomba, SA the facts are;

- Three staff and no patients were on the flight to Moomba.
- Our services out of Broken Hill base are currently operating as normal.

We are working closely with the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) to understand the cause of both separate incidents.

The health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and patients continue to be our top priority.

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