



## Royal Flying Doctor Service

*The furthest corner. The finest care.*

### **New aircraft to meet Flying Doctor's increasing demand**

For January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Two State Government Ministers had a look first hand today at the Flying Doctor's newest aircraft to meet the continuing demand for aero medical services right around Western Australia.

Last year the Liberal National Government's Royalties for Regions program committed \$23.17 million to capital funding for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. As part of this investment, \$7.74 million facilitated the purchase of a new state-of-the art PC12 aircraft to assist the RFDS in continuing to meet patient demand.

RFDS Chief Executive Officer Grahame Marshall said the funding has contributed to the purchase of a new aircraft for the fleet, which will be based at the new Broome operating facility.

"Today Health Minister Hon. John Day and National Party Leader Hon. Brendon Grylls had the opportunity to see our new plane for themselves, at our Jandakot base.

"RFDS aircraft are essentially flying intensive care units, specially outfitted with the latest in medical and aviation technology and operated by highly qualified medical teams and pilots who provide life-saving outcomes for our patients. It's a little known fact that we do the fit out of the aircraft here at Jandakot ourselves which takes around 6 weeks for completion."

Mr Marshall said services in the state's north had also been given a boost of \$2.2 million from the Royalties for Regions investment, with the opening last year 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, working and travelling in the Kimberley region.

"Broome is the busiest patient hub for the RFDS in the north of WA, with over 1000 patients flown to and from Broome in the past 12 months. In the last 6 months alone our Broome based team conducted more than 569 landings and flew 307,000km over 898 hours.

"Demand for aeromedical 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 in WA for more than 80 years.



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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 January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Time:** 12 noon

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

**Who:** Health Minister John Day, National Party Leader Brendon Grylls,  
RFDS CEO Grahame Marshall

**Footwear:** Please wear closed in shoes

### **Media contact;**

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