



Royal Flying Doctor Service

**MEDIA STATEMENT
17 OCTOBER 2017**

RFDS EVOLVES TO MEET PATIENT DEMAND IN KIMBERLEY

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in Western Australia has announced today it will centralise and boost its Kimberley operations by transitioning its Derby operations to the RFDS Broome facility.

The announcement highlights the need to respond to population and demographic changes in patient demand. Since 2009, there has been a marked and steady shift in patient flow, transitioning away from Derby and increasing through Broome.

Like any business, the RFDS is constantly reviewing and evolving its operations. Review and adjustment is particularly important for the RFDS in WA as its service footprint covers 2.5 million square kilometres – the largest of all the areas serviced by the RFDS in Australia.

The RFDS assures the wider Kimberley community that there will be no change to the delivery of services and emergency response in the region. Patients will not be disadvantaged by this transition, including those in the most remote communities.

The RFDS's critical services in the Kimberley will remain in place, including:

- Emergency aero medical retrievals and inter hospital transfers.
- 128 rural and remote dental clinics per year (in partnership with AMS) in Derby, Broome, Kununurra and Fitzroy Crossing.
- 94 rural and remote General Practice clinics per year in Gibb River Station, Mt Barnett, Mornington Wilderness Camp, Drysdale, Djugerari, Koorabye, Kadjina, Yakanarra, East Kimberley.
- 24-hour-a-day telephone-based medical consultation services.

The RFDS expects the Derby base to fully transition operations to RFDS Broome towards the end of March 2018; with the entire transition anticipated to be complete by the end of 2018.

ENDS

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