



Royal Flying Doctor Service

The furthest corner. The finest care.

MEDIA ALERT FOR FRIDAY MAY 15

Embargoed until 8am Friday May 15

May 13, 2015

RFDS launches major capital raising campaign to secure future of flying doctor

The Royal Flying Doctor Service will today launch its Aero Medical Fund, a major capital raising campaign designed to secure the future of the RFDS in Western Australia.

RFDS Chief Executive Officer Grahame Marshall said the Royal Flying Doctor Service has a proud history and this year celebrates 80 years of delivering its life saving services to every corner of WA.

“The RFDS uses the latest in aviation, medical and communications technology and delivers extensive primary health care and 24-hour aero medical emergency service to those who live, work and travel right around WA,” Mr Marshall said.

“We must continue to look into the future and ensure that we are prepared to meet the needs of West Australians, at any time they may call upon us.

“Today we will launch the RFDS Aero Medical Fund which will provide a platform to promote four core investment pillars of the RFDS – Aero Medical Excellence, Community Health, Innovation, and Leadership and highlight the need for individuals and corporate partners to support the future of the RFDS.”

In 2014 alone, the RFDS transported almost 9,000 sick and injured patients by air across WA for treatment, and received almost 34, 706 patient contacts for medical assistance and advice. Its pilots flew almost eight million kilometres and made over 16,000 landings – at times on dirt air strips or closed highways.

By 2020 it is expected that the RFDS will operate and deliver;

- 80,000 patient contacts per year
- 11,855 patient transports per year
- An aircraft fleet of 20 including 3 Pilatus PC24 Jets.

For interviews and vision:

Date: Friday May 15 @ 9am, fly-over of PC12s at 0830

Venue: Fraser's Kings Park

RFDS Media Contact: Donna Cole – 0419 901 229, donna@lastsay.net.au