



Royal Flying Doctor Service

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **The Flying Doctor thanks Eastern Goldfields Auxiliary**

10 June, 2016

The Royal Flying Doctor Service has thanked members of the Eastern Goldfields Auxiliary for its significant support and fundraising efforts over the last five decades, as the Auxiliary celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month.

Executive General Manager Corporate Affairs Nick Harvey said Auxiliary members have worked hard to provide funding for a wide range of projects to support the Flying Doctor over the past 50 years.

“We are very fortunate to have the auxiliary supporting the RFDS in the Goldfields region,” Mr Harvey said.

“Their support means the RFDS can continue to provide aero medical and primary health care services that are essential for West Australians, and we use much needed funds raised by auxiliary members for a range of projects, equipment and maintenance.

“The Auxiliary has fund raised for many projects including new hangar doors at the Kalgoorlie base.

“Auxiliary members began with the donation tin program all those years ago to help the RFDS buy basic medical equipment.

“This was a huge success and well supported by communities in the Goldfields area from Southern Cross to Leinster and out along the Eyre Highway, right through to the South Australian/Western Australian border.

“Their support has been invaluable and it’s great to see the Auxiliary evolve over the past 50 years.”

Heather Crombie OAM has been supporting the Flying Doctor for since 1966 as one of the first Auxiliary members.

“I am still a member after all these years,” Heather said.

“It means a huge amount to me to be able to continue to support the RFDS, with nine members of my immediate family having used the Flying Doctors service.

“I spent years on remote stations on the Nullarbor Plain and we didn’t even have a telephone, but relied solely on the Flying Doctor radio network.”

Kalgoorlie Auxiliary Secretary Marg Carrott has been involved since 2005.

“The RFDS is such a vital service and one of my friends was involved in the Auxiliary for many years when she invited me to join. I became part of the team 11 years ago and get as much out of it as I put in,” Ms Carrott said.

“We have a great group of ladies who all enjoy getting together and organising fund raising activities, from quiz nights to afternoon tea at the famous Kalgoorlie Race Round.

“I retired four years ago and this is a fantastic way to remain busy.”

Mr Harvey said the support of dedicated supporters such as the RFDS Eastern Goldfields Auxiliary enables the RFDS to minimize fundraising expenses and ensure that more funds raised go directly towards the Flying Doctor’s primary mission of providing aero medical and primary health care to Western Australians 24 hours a day.

Mr Harvey said in the last year, the RFDS provided medical assistance to nearly 70,000 people through aero medical retrievals, telehealth consults and primary health care clinics across Western Australia - providing aero medical assistance to 25 patients per day on average.

“That’s more than one person every hour of the day,” Mr Harvey said.

“During the 2014/15 year, the RFDS treated and flew 1,286 patients from the Goldfields region.

“Many patients transferred were children aged under the age of 15.”

The RFDS responds to a range of medical conditions, the most common in the Goldfields in the past 12 months were as a result of injury and poisoning illnesses, with many patients also requiring treatment and aero medical transfer due to cardiovascular problems.

“It is only due to the support of volunteers like members of the Eastern Goldfields Auxiliary that we are able to continue to provide urgent assistance to West Australians wherever and whenever they need us, 365 days a year,” Mr Harvey said.

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 now in WA for over 80 years. To donate to the RFDS call 1800 669 569 or visit [www.flyingdoctor.org.au](http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au).

**ENDS**

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