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Flying Doctor announces enhanced health services for Western and Far Western New South Wales

The Royal Flying Doctor Service South Eastern Section announces its intention to launch enhanced oral healthcare services, mental health and post-hospitalisation follow-up care services

10 August, 2015 – Western and Far Western NSW communities will benefit from a number of enhanced health services the Royal Flying Doctor Service (South Eastern) Section (RFDS SE) announced today.

Greg Sam, CEO of the RFDS SE said, "These health services address some key areas of need identified in Far West NSW including the need for enhanced oral health care, mental health services, as well as care for patients from within our network following discharge from hospital.

"I'm truly delighted that the RFDS SE has been able to build on its existing services to offer increased care to the communities of Western and Far Western NSW. While the organisation is largely known for, and continues its emergency work, we are pleased to contribute to the delivery of primary and allied health care services to improve the health of people living in remote and rural communities.

"The ethos of the Flying Doctor has always been to deliver the finest care to the furthest corner of Australia and these services are a means of building on that commitment to the communities we serve and support".

The enhanced health services will be launched in the coming months. Details are as follows:

Expansion of the Outback Oral Treatment and Health (TOOTH) program

Building on the success of the TOOTH program which has provided care to almost 5,000 patients since its inception in 2012, the RFDS SE will deliver a more comprehensive service to the communities of Bourke, Lightning Ridge, and Collarenebri through the placement of additional oral health staff including additional services by a dentist and dental assistant. The Goodooga clinics will continue to be maintained in order to meet the needs of that community.

The enhanced program aims to reduce the length of time patients are on waiting lists for oral health treatment while promoting and maintaining an appropriate level of oral health in remote communities.

Mental Health Programs

Based in Dubbo and Broken Hill the mental health programs will deliver clinical counselling services to children and adults. From Broken Hill the areas of Wilcannia, Menindee, Central Darling and the Unincorporated Far West of NSW, South Western Queensland and Eastern South Australia, will be serviced as well as the Broken Hill area itself.

From Dubbo, the communities of Bourke, Lightning Ridge, Goodooga, Collarenebri and Brewarrina will be serviced. The programs will be consistent with the aims of the Mental Health Services in Rural and Remote Areas Project (MHSRRA).

Post-Hospital Care

The Post-Hospital Care program is designed to enable patients to return home following discharge from hospital to be supported through monitoring and assessment in their homes to reduce the potential for readmission to hospital.

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For further information or to request an interview with Greg Sam, CEO of the RFDS SE, contact:

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ABOUT THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

The not-for-profit Royal Flying Doctor Service has been taking the finest care to the furthest corners of Australia since 1928. The service provides 24 hour emergency cover to 90% of the Australian continent, via a modern fleet of specially equipped aircraft. In the past year, the South Eastern Section conducted over 5,000 clinics, took over 6,000 telehealth calls, had over 53,000 patient contacts and transported almost 8,400 patients.