



Media Release

26 October 2016

### Virtual aviators support the real Flying Doctor

The South Eastern Section of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS SE) are set to benefit when WorldFlight Australia pilots and support crew “take-off” from Sydney in their Boeing 747-400 cockpit simulators on Sunday 6 November. They will clock-up some 37,000 virtual nautical miles during their seven-day, non-stop round-the-world trip to 45 destinations that will include: Auckland, New York, London, Tehran and Hong Kong.

WorldFlight uses a full motion cockpit simulator created, built and owned by local Sydney pilot, Matt Sheil. Almost an exact replica of a Boeing 747-400 cockpit, it is so hi-tech that it requires nine computers and 42 programs to drive it. The pilots see computer generated photo realistic views of their locations through the cockpit windows and real weather reports can be fed into the software so the pilots and crew also have to factor in local weather conditions.

To make the whole experience even more realistic, a team of volunteers will be operating a virtual 24-hour a day Air Traffic Control Centre for the duration of the flight.

“Since we started in 2001 we’ve grown from one cockpit to seven and have raised over \$250,000 for the RFDS SE,” explained WorldFlight Australia organiser Terry Scanlan.

“This year seven teams from around Australia are aiming to raise \$42,000. We do it because within the Australian aviation community there are few more worthy causes than the Flying Doctor.”

“WorldFlight has been one of our most loyal and long-standing fundraisers and we are grateful for their continuing support,” said Andy Moore, General Manager Marketing and Fundraising at the RFDS SE.

“Donations are essential to help the RFDS SE operate as a 24/7 emergency evacuation service, as well as facilitating vital primary healthcare clinics to those living in rural and remote Australia.”

WorldFlight Australia is encouraging virtual aviation community to form their own teams and everyone else to support the existing teams through the Everyday Hero website at:

<https://worldflight2016.everydayhero.com/au/worldflight-australia>

WorldFlight Australia is also giving aviation buffs and big kids the chance to fly a 747 simulator and donate to charity at the same time. A one hour flight costs \$150, two hours \$200 and three hours \$350, with all proceeds generously donated to the RFDS.

No experience is necessary as an instructor will teach you how to pilot the aircraft and negotiate the challenging approaches and landings at the world’s most iconic airports.

Flights are available Monday to Friday. Simply call Terry Scanlan on 0438 647 409 or email [tscanlan@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tscanlan@bigpond.net.au)

There will be a **special media opportunity between 8- 11 am on Monday 7 November** for photographs and filming at the World Flight HQ situated in the Hy-way Truck Accessories building, 45 Governor Macquarie Drive, Chipping Norton.

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For more information or photographs, 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 facilitated almost 4,500 clinics, took over 5,500 telehealth calls, had over 49,100 patient contacts and transported almost 8,200 patients.

