



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**5 May 2017**

**Efforts of Flying Doctor supporters praised in National Volunteer Week**

Four-wheel drive enthusiast Shirley Butcher and her husband John spend a lot of time driving around the Australian Outback and wherever they go, there's always someone they meet who has been helped by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

These encounters are what have motivated Shirley to volunteer at the Flying Doctor's South Eastern (RFDS SE) Section for the past seven years.

"Before I retired I was a secretary manager for a local club and in my retirement I wanted to continue to help out somewhere that gave me the chance to do office work," Shirley said.

"I wanted to keep learning and I thought the RFDS was a great cause that would enable me to do this."

Making thank you phone calls to generous supporters, updating donor details, entering data and providing general administrative support are just some of the duties Shirley performs for the RFDS SE Section.

"I love volunteering because I enjoy learning new skills and the friendships I've formed with the staff at the RFDS," Shirley explained.

"I feel like part of the team and like the feeling of giving back."

Shirley is one of many volunteers the RFDS SE Section is grateful to have on board, the organisation's CEO Greg Sam said ahead of National Volunteer Week (8-14 May).

"Volunteers are the backbone of both the communities we serve and our organisation as a whole," Mr Sam said.

"They perform a range of roles for us such as raising funds, lighting flares on runways, helping us deliver primary healthcare clinics, taking tourists on base tours, helping run events or providing administrative support.

"Volunteers help us ensure we are able to deliver on our mission of improving health outcomes in remote, rural and regional communities in as efficient way as possible.

"During National Volunteer Week we'd like to say a special thanks to them all and remind them how appreciative we are of all their efforts."

To find out more about volunteering visit [www.flyingdoctor.org.au/careers/volunteer](http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/careers/volunteer)

- ENDS -

For more information or photographs, contact Ryan Young, Digital Marketing Communication Coordinator on 0427 392 475 or [ryan.young@rfdse.org.au](mailto:ryan.young@rfdse.org.au)

**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.

