



Media Release

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The Flying Doctor to touch down at Nyngan Expo

This Saturday, the AGL 2017 Nyngan Agricultural Expo celebrates its 25th year as a major event in western NSW. Over 350 exhibitors will display their products and services ranging from farm machinery and livestock to lifestyle, fashion, arts and crafts. The emergency services will also be present.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service South Eastern (RFDS SE) Section will be represented by members of its new Alcohol and other Drugs (AoD) team. This follows a successful joint tender with Lyndon, an independent organisation with 30 years of experience in the field, to provide AoD services to western NSW. The program is funded through the Western NSW Department of Health's Primary Health Network for an initial 18 months.

The new program has established AoD outreach services in Cobar, Dubbo and Broken Hill.

"The RFDS SE Section mental health team has grown from five to 15, which is a significant health investment in western NSW," said Jenny Beach, Alcohol and other Drugs Program Coordinator at the RFDS SE Section.

"The Nyngan Ag Expo is a great chance for us to meet the community and let them know we're here to help.

"With the release of some pretty confronting reports on drugs and alcohol recently, as well as an RFDS survey on the lack of health services in the bush www.flyingdoctor.org.au/research, this new service is very timely."

The AoD team will be doing a seminar using props like a Standard Drinking Kit and the Virtual Reality beer and marijuana goggles. These are used in interactive demonstrations to show people how quickly alcohol and drugs can impair our faculties.

Patrons will also be encouraged to get on board the RFDS SE Section educational simulator, a full-sized replica of the flight deck and fuselage of a RFDS King Air B200 aircraft. Measuring 9.1m long, 2.4m wide and 3m high, the simulator is equipped with flight controls/ indicators, stretchers, communications, oxygen and suction, the tools used by the doctors, nurses and pilots of the RFDS SE Section.

On boarding the simulator, RFDS SE Section Community Development Coordinator, Sarah Little, will be on hand to explain the aircraft's capabilities, what the medical equipment in these 'flying intensive-care units' does and recount some real-life rescue stories.

"The simulator is primarily a health promotion and educational tool," said Sarah.

"It helps us promote the vital emergency and primary healthcare clinics the RFDS brought to over 282,000 Australians nationally last year. It also helps us explain that we need to raise additional funding each year, on top of any Commonwealth and state government allocations, so we can continue to deliver and grow our range of services."

The guided tour through the simulator is open to the public.

At the Nyngan Agricultural Expo the RFDS SE Section will be located in Section A near the Sponsors tent.

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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.