



Media Release

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## **Berry 'Shows' it cares for the Flying Doctor**

For the very first time visitors to this year's Berry Show will be able to experience what it's like to be on board a Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) aircraft, as well as learn more about this Australian icon by visiting the RFDS aeromedical simulator.

"We are delighted to be attending the Berry Show this year and hope our presence will raise awareness in the local community about our role across NSW- from Berry to Broken Hill and beyond, where we provide vital healthcare. We are also encouraging locals to help us raise funds to keep providing and expanding these services," said Greg Sam, Chief Executive Officer of the RFDS South Eastern Section.

While commonly known for their emergency retrievals the RFDS also provides a wide range of other healthcare services such as primary healthcare clinics, telehealth and Inter-Hospital Transfers (IHTs). The Flying Doctor conducted nineteen IHTs to Nowra in the last year.

"The simulator is primarily a health promotion and educational tool – it's a full sized replica of an RFDS King Air B200 fuselage, complete with flight deck and full aeromedical fit-out. For many this will be as close as they ever get to a real RFDS aircraft." said Mr Sam.

As well as bringing the simulator to the show this year, the RFDS will also be launching the 'Berry Shows it Cares' campaign.

"We are challenging the local community to link with Outback City Broken Hill to raise enough funds to buy an Immunisation Refrigerator. This will be used in Broken Hill to store medicine such as anti-venom, and will provide automatic notifications when items are about to go out of date so they can be replaced. These kinds of anti-venoms save lives, but are very expensive with some costing over \$2,600 for each use.

Berry Country Women's Association President Marie De La Torre is getting behind the campaign and will be volunteering her time to assist the RFDS at the Berry Show, "The members of our branch have supported the Royal Flying Doctor Service for many years and I, along with some other members, will be at the Berry Show to lend them a hand. We value the RFDS because they save lives across Australia, including the son of one of our members."

The RFDS is encouraging locals to visit the simulator at the Berry Show and meet RFDS staff who will be on hand to explain the aircraft's capabilities, what the medical equipment in these 'flying intensive care units' does and share some real-life rescue stories. You can make a donation at the show, host your own fundraiser throughout the year, or join local community groups to support the RFDS.

**At the Berry Show, the RFDS Simulator and stall is situated outside the Pavilion near Gate 2.**

**To support the RFDS “Berry Shows it Cares” campaign visit [www.everydayhero.com.au/event/berryshowsitcares](http://www.everydayhero.com.au/event/berryshowsitcares)**

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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 flew the equivalent of 6.25 round trips to the moon as it conducted over 5,000 clinics, took over 6,000 telehealth calls, had over 53,000 patient contacts and transported almost 8,400 patients.