



Media Release

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New Broken Hill Base Manager looks to the future

Marcus Wilson was recently appointed Manager at the Broken Hill Base of the Royal Flying Doctor Service South Eastern Section (RFDS SE).

“We felt that Marcus’ experience and skill sets were an excellent fit for us,” said Claudio Grasso, General Manager of Base Operations and Service Delivery.

“He’s arriving at a time of expansion and change at Broken Hill and we look forwards to working with him.”

In a wide-ranging career Marcus has spent 14 years in the Australian Army. After deployments in anti-terrorism and chemical and biological units he studied to become a medic and served in the military for a further eight years in that capacity. On leaving the Army he worked for the Queensland Government where he was involved in pandemic planning. In 2006, he went to Afghanistan to work in aeromedical retrieval. That inspired him to start his own company in Kabul and has spent the past decade supplying clinic, health and emergency evacuation services to aid workers with the United Nations being his largest customer.

Of his varied and wide-ranging experiences Marcus said, “I feel the past ten years has been an apprenticeship for this position.”

“My experience is more operational than straight aviation, but I have set up clinics in remote areas of Afghanistan and had to staff them with fly-in medics, so that has given me first-hand experience of the logistical challenges facing the RFDS SE.”

“I am used to working in tight situations and know how vital healthcare is to remote communities. I found supplying those services immensely satisfying.”

Although only in the job for two weeks his early impressions are favourable ones.

“I have inherited a fantastic aviation and engineering team and am looking forwards to working with them and all the rest of the staff at the base.”

“Broken Hill is our main hub and a very busy place. Daily patient transport and clinic flights go all across Far Western NSW and we’re on 24/7 standby for emergency evacuations. A large slice of the Section’s aircraft maintenance is also done here, so the engineering hangar is always busy.”

“In addition, the new hangar is taking shape and how to move the whole operation to the new facility without disrupting our normal schedule of vital services is going to be an exciting challenge.”

As to what attracted Marcus to the position of Base Manager at the RFDS SE, he says, “Having worked in aeromedical medicine, I know what an icon the Flying Doctor is.”

“To have started operating an aeromedical service so soon after the very first aircraft took to the skies is an amazing feat.”

“I also strongly believe that those people who produce our food and endure many hardships on the land deserve a first-class health service.”

“I have worked in 36 different countries during my career and am now looking forwards to doing something for Australia.”

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ABOUT THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

The Royal Flying Doctor Service has been taking the finest care to the furthest corners of Australia since 1928. The not-for-profit service provides 24 hour emergency cover to 90% of the Australian continent, via a modern fleet of specially equipped aircraft and road vehicles. In the past year, the South Eastern Section facilitated almost 4,600 clinics, took over 5,500 telehealth calls, had around 51,000 patient contacts and transported over 8,300 patients.

