



MEDIA RELEASE

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Help from Humpty Dumpty Foundation ensures Flying Doctor can safely deliver newborns

Two new neonatal transport incubators (pods) worth close to \$180,000 will help ensure sick or at risk newborn babies from Western NSW can be safely transported by the Royal Flying Doctor Service's South Eastern section (RFDS SE).

Donated to the RFDS SE by the Humpty Dumpty Foundation charity, the two pods provide a heat and oxygen rich environment for babies battling a variety of conditions.

The pods will be housed at the RFDS Dubbo base and were specially modified to fit into the organisation's existing aircraft and patient transfer vehicles.

"With these new pods, the RFDS will be able to safely and securely transfer newborn babies from a variety of remote locations," RFDS Flight Nurse Michael Cook said.

"Because the pods have been modified to fit in our vehicles and aircraft, we'll also now be able to seamlessly transfer babies to hospitals and other settings without taking them out of the pod.

"Thanks to the support of the Humpty Dumpty Foundation, these pods will help us give babies from the country the best chance to survive and overcome any illness they face."

Mr Cook said more help for mums and babies is also on the way thanks to Khans IGA, an anonymous donor, the UK Friends of the Flying Doctor and Silver City Bush Treadlers fundraising groups.

"We're grateful for the support of these individuals and organisations because their generosity has allowed us to purchase a further three pods for our Broken Hill and Mascot bases.

"These will arrive early in the new year and help bolster our efforts to improve the health of rural, regional and remote communities."

"We are thankful to be in a position to make these two much-needed and vital donations to RFDS SE," Humpty Dumpty Foundation Founder and Executive Chairman Paul Francis OAM said.

"The Neonatal Transport Incubators were donated as part of our annual Humpty Dumpty Balmoral Burn Sponsor's Dinner and via our bi-annual Good Egg Book mail-out.

"Our Humpty supporters help us make a difference to young lives across Australia and we know many newborn babies will greatly benefit from having these specially modified pods available to transfer them safely to hospital for further treatment."

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About the RFDS

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 cilitated almost 4,500 clinics, took over 5,500 telehealth calls, had over 49,100 patient contacts and transported almost 8,200 patients.

**About the Humpty Dumpty Foundation**

Having now raised well over \$55 million and continuing to make a significant impact on the lives of sick and injured children at 294 children's hospitals and health service centres in Australia, the Humpty Dumpty Foundation's annual fund-raising initiatives include the Good Egg lunch, Balmoral Burn and the Great Humpty Ball, all of which are generously supported by individual and corporate donors.