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In good hands: RFDS planes will get fully monitored beds. Picture: Ian Munro

High-tech boost for RFDS

Cathy O'Leary
Medical Editor

Emergency care is reaching new heights in WA with plans to fit all Royal Flying Doctor Service planes with fully monitored beds.

State-of-the-art patient monitors will mean every stretcher aboard will be similar to a hospital emergency department bed.

RFDS director of medical services Stephen Langford said the new Zoll X monitors were smaller, lighter and smarter and would improve the medical treatment for seriously ill patients.

"This equipment combines the functions of a critical care monitor with a defibrillator and pace-

maker, all in the one unit," Dr Langford said. "This equipment has improved features and is robust and able to handle tough conditions."

The monitors can operate on batteries, have integrated wi-fi and big colour LED screens which are user-friendly for staff.

They also have a split screen so staff can view an ECG in real time while getting patient analysis information. The wi-fi technology also improves data transfer.

RFDS chief executive Grahame Marshall said critical care monitoring was a key part of the service and the new equipment was developed specifically for military and aeromedical operations.