Press release: March 24 2016

**Flying Doctor urges caution over Easter holiday season**

The Royal Flying Doctor Service urges all Australians to take care as they enjoy the

Easter holidays this year.

Over last year’s 4-day Easter holiday the Flying Doctor airlifted 248 Australians in rural and remote Australia to hospitals across the country. That’s the equivalent of a new emergency patient every 15 minutes, from Easter Friday to Easter Monday.

The oldest patient transported was 91 years of age, and the youngest were newborns.

Those cared for were suffering from a range of conditions including fractures and lacerations from accidents and injuries, cardiovascular disease, infections, respiratory or gastro problems, snake bites, or troubled/premature labour or birth.

A further 71 people were cared for through remote telehealth consultations with RFDS doctors.

Based on past statistics and the ongoing need of medical emergency and primary health service in rural and remote Australia, we can predict that over Easter 2016 the Flying Doctor will again be busy.

“You can rest assured no matter where you are across Australia, over the 4 day Easter holiday the RFDS aviation and medical staff are on duty and providing help where ever we are needed”, says Martin Laverty, RFDS CEO. “Please do celebrate safely this Easter.”

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We are available anytime for media comment or interview (with CEO Martin Laverty) prior to Easter and over the Easter weekend.