

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 14 March 2017

Breast Care Nurse joins RFDS remote SA clinics

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is now offering the services of a McGrath Breast Care Nurse to people in outback South Australia along with two new specialist RFDS nurses as part of its regular fly-in clinic services.

RFDS Central Operations Chief Operating Officer, Tony Vaughan, said the position of breast care nurse has been generously provided by the McGrath Foundation, which also funds a breast care nurse who works through RFDS South Eastern in Broken Hill.

"We are very proud to be providing these additional services to people living in some of the remotest parts of SA, services that are readily available to city dwellers but rarely if not at all for those in the bush," Mr Vaughan says.

"The generosity of the McGrath Foundation means that we are able to provide a greater variety of health education, screening and advice, saving patients the inconvenience of travelling, often for days, by road to a clinic or hospital to see medical staff."

In addition to McGrath Breast Care Nurse, Judith Finlay, who will work part-time from RFDS Port Augusta Base, RFDS has employed two full time specialist nurses Chronic Disease Coordinator, Mandy Smallacombe, and Community Health Nurse and Midwife, Caitlyn Keller.

The new appointments add to the services offered at the RFDS Port Augusta Base Primary Health Care Service, fly-in clinics to remote locations in SA and at RFDS Health Services in Marla, Andamooka and Marree.

Last month the nurses began taking patients at the clinics and taking part in regular RFDS GP and Nurse fly-in clinics from Port Augusta to the North West Pastoral, Gawler Ranges, West Coast, North East Pastoral and Birdsville Track communities.

"RFDS Central Operations offers patients integrated health services through our clinics, scheduled fly-in GP/Nurse and Midwife clinics, telephone consultations and ambulance services at each remote clinic," Mr Vaughan says.

"The modernisation of our general practice in Port Augusta and remote clinics means we are able to offer the same level of service to our patients as those living in the city."

About the McGrath Foundation

Ours is a story with simple – but well-known – beginnings. It started with Jane and Glenn McGrath's very public experience with breast cancer, and has become one of Australia's most recognised and respected charities, the McGrath Foundation.

Some years after her initial diagnosis, Jane's cancer returned. This time, she had a breast care nurse, who both empowered and comforted her, and the entire family. This experience set the mission for the Foundation, which has become an enduring

MEDIA RELEASE Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia Central Operations
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commitment to support thousands of women and men every day, no matter where they live – for free.

We raise funds to place McGrath Breast Care Nurses in communities right across Australia, as well as making breast health understanding a priority.

While more than 50,000 families have been supported by 117 McGrath Breast Care Nurses, there's still lots more to do to reach every family going through breast cancer. We rely on the heartfelt support we receive from all over Australia – including individuals, communities, corporate partners and government. They help by donating, hosting or attending events, or purchasing McGrath Foundation products, which helps us continue Jane's legacy and achieve our mission.

Together, we can make a difference.

To make a donation to the McGrath Foundation, please visit www.mcgrathfoundation.com.au.

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