



Media Release

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Flying Doctors celebrates Standing of Steel milestone at its Dubbo Base

The Royal Flying Doctor Service was honoured to host the NSW member for Dubbo Troy Grant for a special Standing of the Steel ceremony at its Dubbo base today.

The event marks the start of the steel work in the RFDS Dubbo redevelopment project, an initiative that will see an expansion and upgrade of the base with state-of-the-art medical and flight training facilities and an interactive visitor centre.

“The NSW Government is proud to invest \$2.5 million in this critical project, as it will provide the Royal Flying Doctor Service with an important training facility and add an estimated value of \$83 million to the regional economy over the next 20 years,” Mr Grant said.

“The RFDS uses the latest in aviation, medical and communications technology to provide emergency medical and primary health care services to anyone who lives, works or travels in rural and remote areas.

“The NSW Government is proud to support the work of the RFDS to ensure they provide regional communities with the same quality of health outcomes as those living in metropolitan areas.”

Plans for the revamped base include a tourist and education centre that’s expected to attract 40,000 visitors a year. Showcasing the history of the RFDS, the visitor centre will feature a retired RFDS B200 Kingair aircraft, a viewing platform overlooking the entire airport, and a café.

To support RFDS operations, there will be an aeromedical simulator, as well as major upgrades to the operations centre.

RFDS SE board member Terry Clark thanked Mr Grant and the NSW Government for their investment and support.

“The celebration of the start of this exciting new phase in development of our multifunctional aeromedical training and visitor experience centre is as good as it gets,” Mr Clark said.

“We are so pleased to see the combination of RFDS donor funds and a generous NSW Government grant along with several bequests via the Dubbo Support Group making this all possible.”

RFDS SE chief executive Greg Sam said the Dubbo redevelopment was an exciting step forward.

“The redevelopment allows the RFDS to develop its aeromedical expertise and expand services so we can deliver more healthcare to more people,” Mr Sam said. “At the same time, it will make a significant contribution to the broader community, helping to make Dubbo a regional health hub.”

Funding for the project, which covers 3000 square metres at Dubbo Airport which and was due to open mid next year, comes from contributions by the RFDS SE, the State Government’s Restart NSW Regional Development Program, the Commonwealth Government, and the RFDS Dubbo Support Group.

For artist impressions of what the Dubbo redevelopment is expected to look like, follow the link below, where you’ll find two illustrations of the outside of the new building, and one of the interactive display in the visitor centre.

<http://bit.ly/2zVjl0z>

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ABOUT THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

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