

Media Release

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Rural Renovations for RFDS

Two Broome-based Flying Doctors have gone above and beyond their duties to ensure the Yakanarra clinic is in great condition for treating patients.

Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) medical officers, Dr Servaas Terblanche and Dr Tanya Ronaldson volunteered their time to renovate the remote Yakanarra clinic, 60 kilometres south-west of Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Their efforts involved a ten-hour drive from Broome to Yakanarra, covering 1100 kilometres and camping overnight on their days off to spruce up the clinic.

Flaunting their DIY skills, both Doctors' efforts have greatly contributed to the primary health care offerings of the RFDS in the Kimberley region.

"After a critical review of our working environment, we decided to renovate the clinic to ensure we can offer the best care available, supporting those who are living, working and travelling in Yakanarra," said Dr Terblanche.

The Yakanarra clinic recently had special guests visiting from RFDS Victoria. CEO, Scott Chapman, and Chairman Denis Henry, who travelled to the clinic with RFDS Western Operations CEO, Rebecca Tomkinson. The visit concluded with a donation towards the renovations of the clinic.

"The generous donation from our Victorian RFDS visitors allowed us to refurbish the clinic and purchase essential pieces of equipment including a height-adjustable examination couch, resuscitation cart and an automated external defibrillator," said Dr Ronaldson.

"Due to the very remote location of the clinic, a sizeable proportion of the donation would have been taken up with delivery costs and arranging contractors to do the work. This inspired us to take the new equipment out and do the makeover ourselves."

Integrating the local talents of residents and neighbours, the curtains featured in the redecoration were designed by local school children, complementing the Broome crafted solid wood benches in the waiting room.

A second trip is planned to add the finishing touches to the clinic. It will be combined with first aid and medical chest training for the community.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service is committed to providing the best health outcomes for our patients through our aeromedical emergency retrievals, telehealth consultations, inter-hospital patient transport, medical chests, GP clinics and dental services.

We share a long history with the people living in remote communities, ensuring they have access to essential and quality healthcare.

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Photo Caption: The refurbished Yakanarra Clinic with specially designed curtains from local school children.



Photo Caption: Our lovely volunteers donating their time and effort to redecorate the clinic.

Media Enquiries

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Editor's Notes

Facts and Statistics: RFDS Western Operations

- Bases: Jandakot, Kalgoorlie, Meekatharra, Port Hedland and Broome

- Fleet: 16 PC-12 turboprop aircraft and two Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets
- Services: Emergency aero medical retrievals, telehealth, medical chests, rural and remote GP clinics and dental services
- During the last financial year, the RFDS reached and treated 8,535 patients across Western Australia. That's on average 23 men, women and children flown to safety each day.
- During the last financial year, RFDS Western Operations fleet flew a total of 7.56 million kilometres to reach our patients. That's approx. 200 times around the world.
- Each RFDS aircraft is equipped with world-class aero medical equipment to support in-flight emergencies and serve as Intensive Care Units in the sky.
- All RFDS flight nurses are qualified midwives.
- During the last financial year, crews from the RFDS Broome base flew 1.7 million kilometres to reach and treat patients.