

MEDIA RELEASE

*For immediate release
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Help on the ground for the Flying Doctor

Essential health care services delivered by the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) of Western Australia have been given a helping hand – in the form of a brand-new 4WD – thanks to a new partnership by Thrifty Car & Truck Rental.

Thrifty WA's Owner and Managing Director, Keith Bedell, handed over the keys to the vehicle at the RFDS Jandakot base this week, to RFDS General Manager Strategy & Performance, Craig Spencer. The multipurpose vehicle – a Mitsubishi Triton GLS 4WD Dual Cab, with canopy – is fitted out with modern TJM accessories and features official RFDS branding, like its aircraft.

Mr Spencer said Thrifty's support would help the RFDS in delivering an important 'mantle of safety' across more than 2.5 million square kilometres of the State.

The new partnership also provides the RFDS with access to free vehicle rental across Thrifty's broad network of locations in WA. The Thrifty vehicles will be used by RFDS Primary Health Care clinicians when driving to reach their patients.

"Our clinicians travel by road and air to remote and isolated communities to offer free health checks, treatment and essential dental services," Mr Spencer said. "In 2018/19, we helped 15,822 patients via our mobile primary health care clinics. We will now have access to Thrifty vehicles to help with this important work, which we are grateful for."

"Many residents in remote and isolated communities suffer from chronic health conditions, which could be left untreated due to geographical barriers and socio-economic status, without the work of the RFDS."

In addition, the new 4WD will be used by the RFDS at fundraising and community events, including regional field days, the Perth Royal Show, the Gibb Challenge and the Outback Air Race. The vehicle's versatility will also enable the transportation of the RFDS PC-12 model turboprop aircraft and training simulator, for display at community events in metropolitan and regional areas.

Mr Bedell, who has a personal passion for flying, said the new partnership with RFDS was a natural fit for Thrifty WA, given its strong connection with the people, businesses and communities of regional WA.

"Being a state-wide operation and with several of our regional branches located remotely, we greatly value the important work the RFDS does in the community. We have had to call on their services over the years," Mr Bedell said.

"We are pleased to be able to join forces with the RFDS and lend our support to their teams travelling by road, adding to the amazing work they do up in the air."

The new Thrifty vehicle will be on display this Saturday, October 26 between 10am and 4pm, at the RFDS Open Day at its Jandakot base (3 Eagle Drive, Jandakot). Free to attend, the Open Day is a chance for West Australians to view aircraft, and to meet and greet with pilots, engineers, doctors, nurses and staff of the RFDS. It features kids' activity zones, food trucks, and interactive and educational exhibits. For further event details, visit flyingdoctor.org.au/wa/events

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For media enquiries, interviews and high res images, please contact:

*Julie Lynch | Jewels PR
0401 325 800 | julie@jewelspr.com.au*

NOTES TO EDITOR

About Thrifty WA

Thrifty WA is a locally owned and operated franchise and has been servicing WA's rental vehicle needs for 40 years. Its branch network spans 12 locations (branches and airport kiosks) across the State, covering more than 2.2 million square kilometres and with inventory of some 3,000 vehicles.

Thrifty WA forms part of the national and international 'Thrifty' brand, built on a combination of local knowledge and global strength.

With a full complement of passenger, 4WD vehicles, trucks, utes and buses, Thrifty WA caters for both retail and corporate customers. Private renters have a choice of modern cars or small removal vans. Thrifty also offers an extensive range of fully mine-equipped vehicles, providing mining operators and contractors with the choice of vehicles that are fit-for-purpose.

Thrifty is part of the AUS Fleet Solutions group, which provides a full complement of vehicle solutions. Along with Thrifty Car & Truck Rental, the group consists of AUS Vehicle Leasing, AUS Vehicle Sales, AUS Mechanical Services and AUS Smash Repairs.

www.thriftywa.com.au
www.afsgroup.com.au

About Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS)

The Royal Flying Doctor Service of Western Australia provides 24-hour emergency aeromedical retrievals, , inter-hospital transfers, medical chests and a range of primary health care services to those who live, work and travel across the State. The RFDS is regarded as one of the largest and most comprehensive aeromedical organisations in the world.

In WA, the RFDS provides a 'mantle of safety' over more than 2.5 million square kilometres, with operating facilities at five locations – Jandakot, Kalgoorlie, Port Hedland, Meekatharra and Broome.

As a charitable, not-for-profit organisation, the RFDS relies on government, corporate, community and public support to ensure the sustainability of its essential service.

www.flyingdoctor.org.au/wa