



Royal Flying Doctor Service

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



PORT HEDLAND
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Media Release

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Port Hedland International Airport takes the Flying Doctor to new heights

Royal Flying Doctor Service Western Operations (RFDS WO) today announced that Port Hedland International Airport (PHIA) will continue supporting Pilbara communities by extending its partnership with the Flying Doctor.

PHIA will waive all landing fees for the Flying Doctor at its Port Hedland operational base until 2022, enabling the Flying Doctor to redirect funds to providing critical health services to those who need it most in regional and remote WA.

This announcement follows PHIA's recent tarmac upgrade at the Flying Doctor's Port Hedland base, enabling the new, larger Rio Tinto LifeFlight PC-24 jets to taxi and park. Looking for new ways to help, PHIA will share opportunities to promote RFDS in engagement opportunities within the Airport community.

In partnership since 2016, both the Flying Doctor and PHIA are delighted to work together to reach patients and communities that few others can.

PHIA General Manager Rod Evans said "PHIA is very proud to lend our support to RFDS operations and contribute to the amazing work they do up in the air.

"Port Hedland is RFDS' second busiest base in WA and supports regional airports across the Pilbara."

RFDS WO Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Tomkinson said "the Flying Doctor has shared a long and proud history with communities in the Pilbara region, providing a 'mantle of safety' through our 24-hour aeromedical emergency service and primary health care clinics.

"Last year, our crews retrieved 1,473 patients from the Pilbara region to reach specialist care. Our renewed partnership with Port Hedland International Airport which waives all our landing fees, enabling us to continue to redirect vital funds towards patient care."

Operational since 1936, Port Hedland was the Flying Doctor's first base to open in Western Australia. Last year, the RFDS WO fleet flew 1.1 million kilometres from the Port Hedland base to provide aeromedical retrieval services and primary health clinics to patients across the Pilbara.

Ends

Editors' note: The Royal Flying Doctor Service is a medical charity, on standby to provide 24/7 aeromedical emergency and healthcare services to anyone who lives, works or travels in regional and remote WA. We work in collaboration with WA Country Health Service and St Johns Ambulance and other partners as a vital link in the health and emergency services network for WA and its regions.

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