



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

March 29, 2018

\$84 million to expand the Royal Flying Doctor Service: Maranoa MP

FOR rural and remote communities, the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is a symbol of hope and support and this life-saving service will be expanded thanks to \$84 million in Coalition Government funding announced today, Maranoa MP David Littleproud said.

“As a result of this \$84 million injection, the RFDS will, for the first time, establish a Mental Health Outreach Clinic which will see more psychologists and mental health nurses on the ground in areas where there are currently few or no services,” Mr Littleproud said.

“This funding will also boost access to dental care services and emergency air medical services for those living in rural and remote communities.”

The Maranoa MP – who represents more than 40% of rural and remote Queensland – said the RFDS helps to stem the tyranny of distance, not only by bringing much-needed medical services to the bush so locals don’t have to drive hundreds-of-kilometres to access medical support but also providing emergency air medical services.

“For 90 years, the RFDS has provided care and support – they’ve been saving bush lives and this investment will ensure this wonderful service will continue, well into the future,” he said.

The Coalition Government’s four-year \$327 million commitment ensures these services are continued or extended to areas where Commonwealth-funded activity currently doesn’t reach or is limited.

Funding for dental outreach services in areas of most need will be extended beyond 2019. A new Mental Health Outreach Clinic program will be in operation by January 1, 2019.

The government is also increasing its contribution to stand-by arrangements for Royal Flying Doctor Service bases to ensure access to ambulance services.

Six Royal Flying Doctor Service operational sections will directly benefit from this funding: **Queensland Operations**, South East Section (NSW), Central Operations (SA and south of Tennant Creek), Western Operations, Royal Flying Doctor Service Victorian Section and the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Tasmania.

–ENDS–

Media Contact:

Eloise Handley

M: 0411 095 860

E: eloise.handley@aph.gov.au
