



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health and Ageing**

## **Royal Flying Doctor Services – additional funding**

### **Why is this important?**

- The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) has delivered vital medical support to people living in regional, rural and remote communities throughout Australia since it was established in 1928.
- This measure announced by the Prime Minister in April 2007 will help to ensure the long term financial viability of the RFDS by fully funding core services such as emergency medical evacuations and remote area clinics.

### **Who will benefit?**

- The funding will ensure that Australians in rural and remote communities can benefit from continued access to the vital – often life-saving – health services provided by the RFDS.

### **What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?**

- This package will provide additional funding of up to \$156.6 million for five years from 2006-07 to 2010-11, to ensure the RFDS can continue to provide vital health services to rural and remote communities. This brings the Government's support for the service over this period to approximately \$274 million.
- For the first time, the Government will provide funding for the RFDS to provide primary health care services to people on remote Bass Strait islands.
- The package will also include funding for RFDS capital requirements, including future aircraft replacement, as well as a one-off capital contribution towards the purchase of an aircraft for the delivery of RFDS services in Central Australia.

### **What have we done in the past?**

- The Government has been funding the RFDS since 1932. Under the current four-year agreement, which will expire on 30 June 2007, the Government has committed more than \$111 million to the RFDS.

### **When will the initiative conclude?**

- Funding for the RFDS is ongoing.