

MEDIA LAUNCH

2.15 pm Monday 8th May

RFDS Hangar, Adelaide

2.15 pm *Back to the Bush – Bridging the Divide* Media Conference

MC Ian Doyle introduces

1. His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Her Excellency Mrs Marlena Jeffery.
2. His Honour Mr Ted Egan AO; NT Administrator (in his capacity as Patron of the Year of the Outback 2006)
3. Mr Bruce Campbell AM MBE, : Founder and Chairman of Year of the Outback; Chairman of Australian Outback Development Consortium Ltd
4. Mr Bryce Tomlinson & Ms Felicia Carboon; Lead On Youth Ambassadors
5. John Lynch; RFDS CEO

MC Ian Doyle invites

1. Mr Bruce Campbell AM MBE; to speak (2 minutes)
2. His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia to speak (5 minutes)
3. Mr John Lynch; CEO RFDS to speak (2 minutes)

MC Invites Questions (5 minutes)

RFDS CEO John Lynch invites the official party to go into the hangar, view the PC 12 RFDS aircraft and to speak with the RFDS aircraft staff.

2.30 pm Media Conference Concludes

TALKING POINTS FOR GOVERNOR-GENERAL

- Here today to launch a trip with a difference – a week long trip from Adelaide to Longreach in Queensland.
- The theme for the trip is *Back to the Bush, Bridging the Divide*
- The trip has a number of purposes
 - To let all Australians know that many of our regional centres are vibrant, attractive and very friendly places.
 - They cater for tourists and our inland tourist centres are first-class. Many of our regional centres also have modern facilities catering for business conventions and seminars
 - This trip also is a tribute to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, one of Australia's great icons. Next Monday (May 15) marks 78 years service to the Australian community.

Patients are only ever a maximum of two hours flying time from medical assistance. It is a unique service worldwide with a fleet of 50 aircraft - each new plane costs around \$6-8 million including fit-out.

In 2004/05 the RFDS flew over 19 million. klms across Australia for a total of 234,000 patient contacts.

The RFDS more relevant than ever and has expanded its role significantly in recent years to incorporate a broader range of services in rural and remote areas of Australia whilst increasingly providing critical support in urban centres.

- looking forward to visiting Beltana and John Flynn's Manse on Thursday where Flynn conceived the idea of the 'Mantle of Safety for Australia' which evolved into the RFDS

- Many of our *regional centres offer viable alternative places to live* where housing can be more affordable, jobs are available, travel time is shorter and the air and the environment are clean.
 - The *need to ensure the long-term prosperity of our regional hubs & retaining and attracting young* to regions. But we must do more to provide and to promote opportunities for young people
 - We have our ‘Ambassadors for Youth’ here today and they will give you an idea of the sort of exciting programs and projects that are on offer.
 - Water is the most essential ingredient.
Supply – mention Kalgoorlie treated effluent now used to water 55-percent of all playing fields and parks & gardens.
 - Great Artesian Basin water is critical to the daily lives of the local communities, pastoralist, mining industry and tourist operators in much of the outback areas involved in this trip
 - Experiencing the bore water from the Great Artesian Basin at Dulkaninna Station on the Birdsville Track on Friday
 - All Australians can benefit by caring more for each other.
Important to acknowledge the contribution being made to our economy by all those people living and working in regional and rural Australia
- 85% of Australians live within 50-kilometres of the coastline. Of those 64-percent live in the capital cities. To those people who haven’t been inland, my message is, come and have a look
 - This trip is also an important occasion to recognise the feats of the early explorers who opened up the vast inland of this great continent - Burke and Wills, John McDougall Stuart, Charles Sturt and Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson