

# TakeOff

IN THE AIR, ON THE GROUND



Royal Flying Doctor Service  
TASMANIA

## Inside

- > Former Mayor recalls daring Swan Is rescue
- > Hawks players support RFDS health message
- > Flight nurse experience passed on to students

*Celebrating*  
**60 years**  
*of service to*  
**TASMANIA**



- | Aero-medical support
- | Physical and mental health programs
- | Dental outreach
- | Patient road transport
- | Medical chests
- | Education

We're covering Tasmania with care





# Education spreads the health message

*RFDS Tasmania education officer Jocelyn McLean with Riverside Primary School students Ruth Orr and Charlie Walker and school assistant principal Teresa Whitney during the launch of the latest Oral Health Care online resources for teachers.*

**One of the most joyful, exciting and of course educational activities that takes place at RFDS Tasmania's base in Launceston are the school tours conducted by education officer Jocelyn McLean.**

It's a team effort - with staff and volunteers helping out and pilots who are between jobs and Air Services Australia fire fighters all getting involved.

On average there are one or two tours every month, and every second year Jocelyn helps RFDS Victoria education manager Tom Ryan organise the Look Up In The Sky (LUITS) tour, where a Melbourne-based education plane simulator goes on the road statewide, stopping off at schools for a day to teach the history and role of the RFDS and spread important health messages to a new generation.

The past few months have seen an increasing amount of visits from classes of all ages from schools around northern Tasmania.

While these fun and educational activities are currently on hold, RFDS Tasmania has been able to fill some of the void with the online education units developed in conjunction with RFDS Victoria.

Teachers around the country who have been making preparations for e-learning have been accessing the Australian Curriculum-approved resources available at [www.flyingdoctor4education.org.au](http://www.flyingdoctor4education.org.au)

The online resources complement units of work in HASS and Health and are suitable for grades 2, 3 and 6.

The most recent offering, a new oral health unit, is suitable for students from prep to grade 6.

"RFDS Tasmania takes a holistic approach to healthcare and recognises that education is the key to preventing chronic disease and hospital admission in the future," Jocelyn said.

"While we've offered online resources for a while now it's satisfying to see that in these unprecedented times when people are forced to stay at home, we can help teachers and students continue their education program and the available resources have become even more important."

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School students were one of the first schools in the country to complete the Oral Health Care unit, and according to teacher Dianne Murray they enjoyed the videos and activities which supported the development of good oral health and the importance of personal hygiene practices.

"Students were engaged with developmentally age-appropriate interactive activities linked to the Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education and Personal and Social Capabilities," she said.

"The resource content is targeted at prep to grade 2, grades 3-4 and grade 5-6. RFDS can be congratulated on their efforts to educate primary age children in good dental health and promote good hygiene habits."

Animated characters Dentist Dan and Dentist Donna guide teachers and students through the Australian Curriculum content, with learning activities presented using video, audio, interactive work sheets, quizzes, games and a 360 degree photo of a dental surgery with hotspot links.

For more information contact Jocelyn on 6391 0509 or [jocelyn.mclean@rfdstas.org.au](mailto:jocelyn.mclean@rfdstas.org.au)

*Cover image: RFDS pilot Cpt Andrew Roe talks planes with Indy from St Finn Barr's Catholic School during a school visit to the Western Junction base.*

# First job for bus as COVID-19 assessment clinic

A bus donated by the State Government, and re-fitted with the support of Rotary Tasmania, was temporarily diverted from its intended use as an RFDS Tasmania mobile health clinic to use as an interim COVID-19 respiratory clinic at Launceston General Hospital. As the RFDS marks its 60th year of operation in Tasmania, this emergency response points to a new role that adds to a long history of helping out whenever we can.



With the interior refitting of the bus completed but the exterior branding yet to be done, the launch of the bus was postponed so it could respond to a request from the Health Department to offer a screening service and counselling room, staffed by LGH staff.

The mobile respiratory clinic was open for about a week while the LGH set up a in-house facility and a second bus scheduled for a re-fit with Penguin Composites was fast-tracked and will soon be available as a second alternative.

The role of these buses, initially aimed at youth mental health, continues to evolve.

Funded largely by the broader Tasmanian community, they will be staffed by qualified health professionals and made available for a variety of mobile clinics in remote townships and rural areas throughout the state.

It was always the intention that they serve as back-up in times of a health crisis which could be anything from bushfire relief to immunisation programs.

RFDS CEO John Kirwan said that he was proud that RFDS was able to step in and assist during the initial stages of the pandemic in Tasmania and added that it was willing to do so again if needed.

"I have worked in the health system, in many different roles for more than 40 years, in two states and one territory. In all my different roles there was a requirement for disaster management planning, winter flu season plans and pandemic plans."

"Winter flu season plans, as with other infectious diseases plans, were used each year, evaluated and improved. Disaster plans were reviewed and we had regular training exercises and learnt from other natural disasters."

"The pandemic plans were revisited and revised but never enacted as they are being today."

Our public health staff remind us that the last big human influenza pandemic was in 1918/19 - the Spanish Flu - followed by the Asian Flu in 1957/58 and the Hong Kong Flu in 1968/70.



Left: One of two health buses in use at Launceston General Hospital during the early days of COVID-19 testing.

Above: LGH staff getting ready to use the Coronavirus Assessment Clinic.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, I urge all of our friends and supporters to help yourself and others you influence by following state and national policies

- RFDS Tasmania CEO John Kirwan

"These were the most severe, causing millions of deaths. Those since have been less severe, in part due to modern public health approaches such as vaccinations and quick responses to outbreaks."

"These policies are evidence-based and have been widely distributed. The saying 'prevention is better than cure', has never been more important."





# Lighthouse keeper's son saved in remote beach rescue

**RFDS Tasmania emeritus board member Lindsay Millar OAM recalls the early days of our service. Before there were radios, beacons and accurate maps – when RFDS pilots flew by time, instinct and sight. Much of this information was first published by George Ashwood of Hobart.**

Pilots from Tasmania's aero clubs made many daring rescue flights to isolated islands and remote areas of the state in the 1950s.

They pushed the limits when a life was on the line – with little to no navigation equipment, lighting or smooth tarmac runways.

These flights, and acknowledgement at national level that the need was great, led to the establishment of the RFDS Tasmanian section in 1960.

One such flight was made by the chief pilot of the southern club, Lloyd Jones, on March 21, 1953.

The flight was from Hobart to Swan Island in a single-engined Auster J1B 'Aiglet' with the call sign VH-ACY.

Swan Island, part of the Waterhouse Island group, is a 239-hectare granite island in Banks Strait close to the north-eastern coast of Tasmania.

With a history that involves seal hunting and several major shipwrecks, it also boasts one of Australia's oldest lighthouses, now automated, but in the early 50s a family manned and maintained the lighthouse.

On this occasion the mission was to pick up the four-year-old son of the lighthouse keeper who had been ill for some time and his parents had been receiving medical advice by radio. When his condition deteriorated, he needed to be admitted to hospital urgently.

Unfortunately, the weather could not have been worse, with all commercial aircraft grounded at Launceston, Wynyard, Devonport and Flinders Island airports.

Advised of the urgency of the case, Mr Jones took off from Cambridge into strong winds and very low cloud.

He flew at 50 feet (15m) above water along the East Coast for approximately 175 nautical miles, arriving at Swan Island some two hours later.

The lighthouse keeper, Les Broomhall, had marked out a small landing strip on the rugged island but the conditions were such that Mr Jones opted instead to land on a half-moon shaped beach nearby.

Despite a 25-knot crosswind (which exceeded the manufacturer's limits of the aircraft), the fact that he had never landed there before and huge doubts as to whether he would be able to take off again given the severe weather conditions he managed to touch down on the short beach.

According to Les's wife Joan the plane pulled up at the very end of the beach with its wheels in the water, and the pilot had to pull the plane further out onto the sand.

The boy and his mother were then loaded into the plane and took off into the head wind, barely clearing the hinterland before being safely transported to the Royal Hobart Hospital.





Roger Broomhall as a baby on Swan Island with his parents Les and Joan.



Roger Broomhall and his mum Joan (on far left) and his dad Les (far right) with friends on the lighthouse supply ship Cape York.



The Auster J1B Aiglet VH-ACY, which made a daring rescue of a little boy from a beach on Swan Island, is pictured here on a beach at Cox's Bight in South-West Tasmania (photo courtesy QVM). The plane is now on display at the Moorabbin Aviation Museum in Melbourne.

That boy, who made a full recovery, was Roger Broomhall who grew up in George Town and after a stint of work interstate and in New Guinea, returned some years later to George Town where he was elected mayor in 2011.

For his act of bravery Mr Jones was awarded the MBE. The Citation, in part, said:

"In recognition of his outstanding public service since 1947 when he shouldered the responsibility of making many mercy flights needed to assist ships or persons in distress."

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II bestowed the award on him during her Royal Visit to Tasmania in 1954.

The Auster used on this flight is now on display at the Moorabbin Aviation Museum in Melbourne.

Mr Broomhall, 70, who still resides in George Town, said he has faint memories of his time on Swan Island, and was thrilled to be flown back there by a pilot friend about 12 months ago.

I saw the beach where the rescue took place and it's so hard to believe it was even possible

"I believe that RFDS pilots then and now do a wonderful job - in this case he may well have saved my life."



Former George Town Mayor Roger Broomhall, 70, recalls the extraordinary rescue from Swan Island when he was young boy.



# Hawks partnership takes flight



**RFDS Tas has partnered with Hawthorn Football Club for the 2020 season and was intending on being heavily involved with all aspects of the four Hawthorn fixtures in Launceston this season.**

This was to include a simulator and merchandise stand in the forecourt on game days, quarter and half time on-field activations and many other opportunities to carry the message of our 60th anniversary and our range of services to every corner of the state and to a national audience.

The impact of COVID-19 now has the season on hold but we hope that at some stage we can continue working with the Hawks who are as keen to promote better health for all Tasmanians just as we do.

During pre-season activities for the Hawks players RFDS held a fundraising trivia night at UTAS stadium on February 2 - a fun and competitive night that also featured a silent auction. More than \$5,000 was raised and Hawks players enjoyed mixing with the teams and showing there are some brains as well as brawn in the team!

The trivia night was won by the Launceston College team.







# Joe kicking life goals

by Julie Shelton

Joe Chivers in action playing wheelchair AFL with Hawthorn.

"It's the best thing that ever happened to me."

Astonishing words from young Hobart man, Joe Chivers, now in his eleventh year in a wheelchair.

**Having been confronted with an uncertain future following a sky-diving accident, Joe's life is now full of optimism and opportunity.**

Joe travelled to Launceston recently for the RFDS/Hawthorn Trivia Night at UTAS stadium to be the guest speaker - something he's well used to doing with a busy life as a motivational speaker, mentor at ParaQuad Tasmania, national and international representative in several sports, and an exciting new role as Tasmania's first and only player - for Hawthorn - in wheelchair AFL.

Before his world came literally crashing down from a great height, Joe says he was unmotivated and not in a good frame of mind.

"Prior to the injury, I was really unhappy, working a dead-end, 9-to-5 job in retail - I was independent, stubborn and isolated from family and friends," he recalled.

"Even though I was sports-mad and was playing sport at a local level, now I have far more opportunities at a higher level, like rowing at nationals and playing para ice hockey for Australia in Finland - I would never have had those opportunities prior to my injury."

It was a windy day in August, 2009, when Joe went for his first sky-diving experience. Blown off course from their target of the Hobart Cenotaph, he and his instructor were blown over the Derwent

“I can't say I was angry that (the injury) happened because I'm so glad - it saved my life!”

River - as they passed the bridge it acted as a wind break and they landed hard in a school sports field.

Joe cushioned the landing of his instructor, who was injury-free.

Joe said that he was "super lucky" that a doctor, a nurse and a vet were exercising on a nearby running track and came to his assistance within seconds. They stabilised him and called the ambulance, which arrived within 10 minutes.

Joe immediately knew he had a serious injury - he was screaming from the extreme pain and couldn't feel his legs - but doctors say his fitness prior to the accident helped him to limit his injuries to just one vertebra, his L1.

According to his doctor if he had been overweight or unfit, he would have potentially broken more bones.

At Royal Hobart Hospital ICU, he was sedated and eventually flown to Melbourne's Austin Hospital for specialist treatment

The injury turned out to be a partial severing of his spinal cord. Following surgery and months of rehabilitation, Joe was able to recover some feeling in his legs and can now stand assisted for short periods of time.

The physical journey of healing has been matched by a big change in his attitude. With good counselling and support, and courage to embrace opportunities as they've come to him, Joe now sees the world with a 'glass half-full' attitude.

"It's been a long process - it took at least five years to get to this point," he said.

Part of Joe's role with ParaQuad Tasmania is helping newly injured people to start their lives over again - a lived experience he is glad to share, along with his seemingly boundless positivity.



Hawks wheelchair footballer Joe Chivers with RFDS CEO John Kirwan and Emeritus board member Lindsay Millar.

## Wheelchair footy

The game is played between two teams of five, plus interchange players, on a rectangular indoor court divided into thirds with portable goal posts at either end of the field.

Scoring is identical to traditional AFL: six points for a goal, one point for a behind. There is no kicking of the ball, even for able-bodied players, so a handball is equivalent to a kick and an underarm throw is equivalent to a handball.

# Northern experience benefits southern state

by Lana Best

## Former RFDS flight nurse Larissa Smart is passing on a world of experience to Tasmania's newest health carers

If you want to give a young lady from Yolla a chance to broaden her horizons both personally and professionally, there could be no better way than a stint in the top end working for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

And what spectacular horizons they were for paediatric nurse Larissa Smart, who now works as a lecturer at the University of Tasmania's School of Nursing in Burnie and Launceston and combines it with clinical shifts at the North West Regional Hospital.

Happily settled back close to family and friends on the North-West Coast, and working hard on a PhD in epidemiology, Larissa is drawing daily on the experience she gained as a flight nurse, criss-crossing the Northern Territory as part of a primary health care team that could be working with remote Aboriginal communities one day and then landing on a dirt airstrip on a huge cattle station the next.

She said that the RFDS made her feel strong as a nurse, confident and "you realise just how caring you can be".

Growing up on a farm at Yolla, Larissa was unsure what she wanted to do after her school years so she went to work as a nanny in the US and Switzerland for a few years.

It was with some trepidation she returned home and enrolled in nursing - but quickly realised she absolutely loved it and she completed her graduate year at Mersey Regional Hospital at Latrobe and then gained some post-grad qualification in paediatrics.

Her first few contracts were in rural and remote Aboriginal communities in Queensland and then she moved to Christchurch where she worked for four years in a paediatric high dependency unit.

Out of the blue, she was contacted by RFDS Queensland and offered a job.

"I never did find out who had recommended me for the position but I was ready to return to my home country, and a warmer environment," she said.

Based in Cairns, Larissa's days became filled with flights in and out of the Gulf of Carpentaria, working four days on and three days off throughout 2015 and 2016.

"There was a lot of child health care work, community engagement projects, work in the schools and the mines at Mt Isa and patient transfers to and from the Mornington Hospital," she said.

"What I couldn't get over was just how stoked people were to see us. No matter what service we were providing or where we touched down they were so grateful and welcoming.

"It changed the way I felt as a nurse - I learned to have confidence in my skill set because there was no one else there with any medical knowledge - you become super strong when you know you're the only one who can do it.

"The RFDS allowed me to do my job, knowing that I had all the support behind me, and just be fully engaged in what I was experiencing."

Like most RFDS medical staff Larissa had to deal with some horrific emergency situations and she was proud to be there in times of need.

However it's the little things, the happiest times that she chooses to keep closest to her memory recall.

Like the time she treated a young Aboriginal girl for head lice, combed out all the dead nits and carefully braided her hair.



UTAS School of Nursing lecturer and former RFDS flight nurse Larissa Smart.

The next day when she went back into that community there were 30 little girls lined up to see her saying that they had head lice. Their scalps were fine - they just wanted their hair braided.

"Even those moments when you could let a pregnant woman hear her unborn baby's heartbeat for the first time 16-17 weeks into a pregnancy and confirm everything was okay - in remote areas they can't just pop into a GP and have a heart rate taken," she said.

Of course the impromptu station tours in a farmer's ute, the cups of tea and cake, taking the time to treat the broken leg of a kangaroo and the resilience of rural communities are all impressions that hold strong.

Larissa went on to lecture in paediatrics at the University of South Australia for four years before moving back to Tasmania to work for UTAS.

"When I talk to new nurses on the ward and demonstrate the spread of disease and talk about the differences between Covid-19 and the spread of measles, influenza, SARS, I know I have the skills to give accurate information and the real life experience.

"The RFDS has best practice methods of handling people with infectious diseases and its knowledge, built up over the past 90 years, is vast.

"What I really want to see now is people following all the government recommendations, be really mindful of social distancing and to remember that it doesn't mean social disconnection - we still want and need a connection to our community and each other to preserve our mental health."

“The RFDS allowed me to do my job, knowing that I had all the support behind me, and just be fully engaged in what I was experiencing”



# Stint at Smithton leaves an impression on dental student

**University of Melbourne final year dental student Maluki Fernando decided on a holiday with a difference this summer, arranging work placement with the RFDS Tasmania dental team during her break.**

Under the supervision of Dr Lorika Strickland she spent a week in Smithton providing essential dental services to those most in need.

Interested in the dynamic of working in a remote community, Maluki quickly acquainted herself with the centre staff. She also accompanied dental assistant Chloe Robson who opened the sterilisation room and familiarised herself with all the tests for the ultra-sonic and steriliser.

"As a final year dental student, it was not only a valuable experience for practising clinical skills, but also to meet the locals of Smithton, learn their stories, and to provide services that they may otherwise be unable to access," she said.

"Their gratitude was incredibly humbling and reiterated the importance of access to dental services and oral health education for all Australians."

Lorika has in the past had the honour of supervising budding young dentists when she worked for Queensland Health, Cairns, with James Cook University and University of Queensland students rotating through the clinic.

"Maluki stands out as one of the best students I have ever observed," Lorika said.

"She possesses all the dimensions of what I believe are necessary to make a good dentist. She was warm and respectful towards her patients and exuded confidence based on skill - managing to win the trust of even nervous patients.

"Her comment 'I only ever wanted to be a dentist' manifested in every action."

Maluki said it was an honour to be a part of the RFDS which remains an integral organisation in improving the disparity in access to dental services between metropolitan and rural areas.

"I would like to express the greatest thanks to Dr Lorika and the RFDS for this incredible opportunity that I will remember fondly throughout my future career."

*RFDS Tasmania dentist Dr Lorika Strickland and University of Melbourne final year dental student Maluki Fernando at the Launceston base after a week assisting the team in Smithton.*





# CTA scholarships boost to aspiring rural doctors



*Rebecca Cuthill (UTAS), Sarah Courtney MP (Health Minister), Fayral Qureshi, Declan Hilder and Claire Mackintosh (scholarship recipients), John Kirwan (RFDS CEO), Alan Beecroft (CTA president).*

RFDS Commercial Travellers Scholarship certificates were recently presented to aspiring rural doctors who have had a taste of practising medicine in remote locations. Held at Launceston Library on February 21, scholarships were presented to the following fourth year University of Tasmania medical students:

## Declan Hilder

Originally from Hobart, Declan is in his final year of Bachelor of Medicine – Bachelor of Surgery (Year 5) this year at UTAS Rural Clinical School, Burnie.

Declan aspires to reach an interpersonal career in which he can make direct improvements to the lives of others and satisfy his curiosity with lifelong learning. A contributing factor to Declan choosing a career in medicine was the ability to work across a variety of geographical and cultural environments. As a part of this, he hopes to work in a rural and remote practice. As a recipient of the 2019 RFDS Commercial Travellers Association 4th year Medical Student Scholarship, Declan completed a short placement with the RFDS in Port Augusta.

## Fayral Qureshi

Originally from Queensland, Fayral is in her final year of Bachelor of Medicine – Bachelor of Surgery (Year 5) this year. Fayral is currently based in Launceston with the UTAS Clinical School at the Launceston General Hospital.

Growing up in Mount Isa, Fayral applied to study medicine at UTAS through the rural entry scheme. She is particularly passionate about rural health and believes the future of health funding needs to address rural and regional areas of Australia to promote health equity and the overall wellbeing of our nation. As a recipient of the 2019 RFDS Commercial Travellers Association 4th year Medical Student Scholarship, Fayral completed a short placement with the RFDS in Mount Isa last year.

## Claire Mackintosh

Originally from Hobart, Claire is in her final year of the Bachelor of Medicine – Bachelor of Surgery (Year 5) this year. Claire is currently based in Launceston with the UTAS Clinical School at the Launceston General Hospital. She chose to study Bachelor of Medicine – Bachelor of Surgery as she has a passion for working with and helping other people. Claire is a strong supporter of Australia's free public health care service and believes a career in medicine will be very rewarding and worthwhile. Claire also has a strong interest in Surf Life Saving and is a member of the Kingston Beach Surf Life Saving Club. As a recipient of the 2019 RFDS Commercial Travellers Association 4th year Medical Student Scholarship, Claire completed a short placement with the RFDS in Port Hedland and Broome in November last year.

Their presentations were excellent and MPs Sarah Courtney, Michael Ferguson, Michelle O'Byrne and Mayor Albert Van Zetten were among the many guests who enjoyed the evening.



# Touch and Go

An aviation manoeuvre requiring a pilot landing on the runway and taking off again without a full stop. Here we provide you with “quick bites” of information: so you can touch and go!



## Once a King Island . . .

King Island is heartland for RFDS Tasmania – the remoteness of the Bass Strait islands was the catalyst for our formation and 60 years on our presence is still firmly on the ground and appreciated.

Islanders are also some of our biggest supporters, and even those who now reside on the mainland do their bit to ensure our services continue.

The King Island Reunion Committee held its third successful event on February 8 at the Devonport Football Club with about 300 people attending from all over Australia and 15 from King Island.

It was a loud, joyful, exciting night of food and friendship.

Through entry donations and raffle sales enough money was raised to donate \$400 to Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania and the same to the Devonport Football Club, King Island Hospital auxiliary and the Bush Fire Appeal.



## Virtual tour of museum exhibit

Thanks to a technological handshake between Hobart Library and the National Museum of Australia in Canberra, RFDS supporters and library patrons were taken on a virtual tour of the RFDS exhibit on February 21.

Hosted brilliantly by National Museum techno-tour guide Graeme McIntyre, attendees were shown various components of the exhibit, including video footage and interviews.

Several donated pieces, including an historic 1960s medical chest and an innovative early pedal generator and radio transceiver used on remote outback homesteads, are testament to the lifesaving services that RFDS has delivered around the country.

The exhibit was opened in 2018 to commemorate 90 years of service, and will be on display in the museum for another two years.



## Adding to the wellness

RFDS Tasmania recently participated in the Wellness Expo in Hobart, an annual event hosted by Rotary Tasmania and West Moonah Community House.

The Wellness Expo consolidates in one place many of the health and wellness services and products available around Tasmania, so the general public can see what is available. The Expo also supports and creates awareness relating to health and wellness within the community.

Supported by volunteer Lisa Ker, marketing and fundraising officer Julie Shelton spoke to dozens of patrons, many of whom bought merchandise and donated to help keep our services going. With more than 90 stalls, it was also a great opportunity to network with other health service providers.



## Continuity of care

There are times when a Tasmanian resident has to be flown to Melbourne to receive additional treatment that is unable to be met by our local hospitals. Once they are ready to come home to Tasmania, RFDS is there to provide a “bed-to-bed” model for continuity of patient care.

The Non Emergency Patient Transport Service (NEPTS) road crews in Melbourne and Tasmania provide high quality care between the airfield and hospital.

With all patient care provided by RFDS, patient handover is to the high standard of the National Safety and Quality Healthcare Service Standards which ensures patient safety and quality health care during this transport from Melbourne to Tasmania.

Picture above are NEPTS Tasmanian crew Lisa Lord and Melissa Blazely receiving a patient from VH-MSZ.



# Can you help?

In these unprecedented times when we find ourselves dealing with a global pandemic, RFDS Tasmania would like to assure our friends and supporters that because we are part of Tasmania's larger health system and considered an essential service, we will not be closing.

We will continue to provide essential mental, physical and dental services to those living in remote and rural locations.

RFDS nationally has been transporting patients with confirmed COVID-19 and suspected COVID-19. This includes primary evacuation cases, inter-hospital transfer of patients from rural/remote areas to inner-regional or major city areas for ongoing isolation and hospital care in metropolitan hospitals, and high-risk patients from hospital care to home-based isolation, using aero-medical and road transport services.

In Tasmania we have been able to support hospitals in the north and north-west with mobile COVID-19 testing clinics, utilising the new health buses funded by the State Government, Rotary Tasmania and local communities.

Our primary care and mental health services have moved to a tele-health model and our dental teams are providing emergency care in remote and regional local government areas that can safely facilitate our clinics.

RFDS Tasmania is taking all needful actions to protect our patients and communities.

We ask everyone to follow the advice of Chief Medical Officer Professor Brendan Murphy, and government directives, designed to keep individuals and the wider community safe.

And we want you to know that while our Launceston base and our Hobart office are not accepting visitors, you can still contact us on (03) 6391 0509 or at [enquiries@rfdstas.org.au](mailto:enquiries@rfdstas.org.au)

Our reach in Tasmania continues to grow and strengthen and this includes providing the dependable support and care required in a crisis, just as we have done now for the past 60 years.

**Now, more than ever, we need your support as the pressure increases on all of the RFDS health services.**

## YES! Here is my gift of support and/or Please update my details



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