

MEDIA RELEASE



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SOUTH32 BOOSTS THE FLYING DOCTOR'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

A AU\$100,000 donation from South32 Cannington has given the Royal Flying Doctor Service (Queensland Section) (RFDS) a major boost as it continues to respond to COVID-19 in north west Queensland.

The funding from South32 Cannington has enabled the RFDS Mount Isa Base to purchase important new equipment, including personal protection equipment and personal respirators for staff, new disinfectant machines for aircraft, a ventilator which will support COVID-19 patients and influenza vaccines for remote communities.

“Like all frontline workers, the RFDS are real heroes and we are very proud to support their work as they respond to COVID-19,” said Joe Russell, South32 Cannington Vice President Operations.

“It’s great to see South32’s funding being put to such good use. The RFDS does a fantastic job providing care for our communities and we are very happy to help out wherever we can.”

RFDS Mount Isa Manager Clinical and Base Operations, Fiona Liddle, thanked South32 for their generous donation.

“Throughout the pandemic, the RFDS has remained fully operational. The donation of this equipment has helped ensure the safety of both our staff and patients,” she said.

“The support is incredibly timely and will allow us to continue to deliver the finest care to the furthest corner of the state.”

The funding given to the RFDS Mount Isa Base was part of AU\$1 million that South32 has delivered to help communities near our Australian operations better respond to COVID-19. Along with the RFDS, funding has also been given to Lifeline and Foodbank.

The past few months has been a very busy period for the RFDS. Between February and mid-August, the service has transported more than 1,450 confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patients across the country, including 35 in Queensland. This has included numerous cases where patients needed transportation to hospitals or between hospitals.

The RFDS Mount Isa team also administered more than 740 influenza vaccines between May and July, helping to safeguard remote communities.

Ends

About South32

South32 is a globally diversified mining and metals company. Our purpose is to make a difference by developing natural resources, improving people’s lives now and for generations to come. We are trusted by our owners and partners to realise the potential of their resources. We produce bauxite, alumina, aluminium, energy and metallurgical coal, manganese, nickel, silver, lead and zinc at our operations in Australia, Southern Africa and South America. With a focus on growing our base metals exposure, we also have two development options in North America and several partnerships with junior explorers around the world.

Further Information

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