

ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE



HISTORY OF THE FLYING DOCTORS

The history of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is rich and vibrant with the idea springing from one man's head; Reverend John Flynn. In the early 1900s, Flynn worked in rural and remote Australia setting up bush hospitals for miners, railway men and other settlers. He witnessed the daily struggle of people living in remote areas and endeavoured to provide them with a much needed service.

On the 15th of May 1928, Flynn's dream became a reality, with him opening the Australian Inland Mission Aerial Medical Service (quite a mouth full) but was later renamed the Royal Flying Doctors Service. With the use of early radios, Flynn was able to give the first telehealth service for people living in rural Australia.

The RFDS was in high demand and grew rapidly. It soon spanned across our vast continent giving help to those in need. In the 1960's the RFDS moved away from using aircraft contractors to purchasing their own aircrafts and employing their own pilots and engineers instead. Today we see the fleet of 64 fully instrumented aircrafts, operating from 22 airbases across Australia and our pilots flying the equivalent of 34 round trips to the moon annually! They now have customised vehicles that are built specifically for dental care, eye care and patient road transport. My, haven't they come a long way since that first flight in 1928 when the Flying Doctor became airborne!

PHONETIC ALPHABET

The phonetic alphabet was developed in the 1950s to help with miscommunication that may have occurred by those who transmit and receive voice messages over radio or telephone, so I guess you can see the importance it brings to the aviation world. The 26 code words in the NATO phonetic alphabet are assigned to the 26 letters of the English alphabet in alphabetical order, check it out!

Alpha	Golf	November	Uniform
Bravo	Hotel	Oscar	Victor
Charlie	India	Papa	Whiskey
Delta	Juliet	Quebec	X-ray
Echo	Kilo	Romeo	Yankee
Foxtrot	Lima	Sierra	Zulu
	Mike	Tango	

CHECK OUT THESE INTERESTING FACTS!

92,776 patients in rural and remote areas used their telehealth services.

Their fleet of 77 aircraft flew over 27 million kilometres last year.

Teams consisting of one pilot and one nurse carry out the majority of flights. An additional doctor will assist on flights involving seriously ill patients, which is usually in about 20 per cent of cases. Pilots are sometimes required to land in difficult or even dangerous circumstances, using flares or car headlights as airstrip markers. They occasionally need to use roads as makeshift runways.

The Federal Mint felt so strongly about the importance of Reverend John Flynn's contribution to medical aviation history that they honoured him by placing his portrait on the \$20 note. Go and have a look!

OUTBACK RESCUE

Guide the plane through the maze and to the hospital.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Can you spot the 5 differences between these two images?



Find out more about the Royal Flying Doctor Service and how you can support them at www.flyingdoctor.org.au

