



## Royal Flying Doctor Service

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**1 September 2010**

### **RFDS to introduces changes to HF radio network**

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) will introduce changes to its HF radio network in Western Australia from Friday, October 1.

RFDS Western Operations' chief executive officer Tim Shackleton said the changes highlighted a commitment to ensuring the service was maintained for regional and rural WA.

He said the changes would allow people to continue to make direct contact with the RFDS operations centre in the case of an emergency via HF radio.

"In recent years, fewer people have used the HF radio network as technologies such as satellite and mobile phones have become more readily available for people in remote areas," Mr Shackleton said.

"However, the HF network continues to be an important back up communication system in country WA and these changes will allow the RFDS to continue to provide the service into the future."

As of October 1, HF users will be able to reach the RFDS in the case of an emergency by using the VKS-737 radio network and one of the following Selcall numbers.

<b>Radio Base</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Selcall No.</b>
Adelaide (Primary)	SA	0611
Adelaide (Secondary)	SA	9611
Alice Springs (Primary)	NT	0811
Alice Springs (Secondary)	NT	9711
Cairns	QLD	7711
Carnarvon	WA	TBA
Charters Towers (Primary)	QLD	8011
Charters Towers (Secondary)	QLD	9511
Darwin	NT	9411
Derby	WA	9211

Meekatharra	WA	TBA
Newcastle	NSW	6811
Perth	WA	0511
Port Hedland	WA	TBA
St Marys	TAS	0711
Swan Hill	VIC	8911

Anyone who does not have Selcall technology on their handsets can broadcast their emergency on the VKS-737 network and their situation will be relayed to the RFDS.

The Emergency Call Detect (ECD) system on HF frequencies 2280, 2656, 2792, 4010, 4030, 4045, 5300, 5360, 6825, 6880, 6890 and 6960 KHz will no longer be monitored by the RFDS.

However, the RFDS has established a formal agreement with VKS-737 for any emergency messages broadcast over the HF radio network to be passed on to the RFDS.

The changes follow a Telstra decision to terminate the voice grade dedicated lines (VGDL) that supported the network.

Mr Shackleton said the RFDS had researched ways of maintaining the service without the use of the VGDL and said the changes would secure the network's future.

"This is an important service that must be maintained and we are pleased to be able to provide a way of keeping the HF network alive and well in Western Australia," he said.

Anyone who requires advice in relation to the changes to the HF network are urged to call RFDS I.C.T. Manager Matt Turany on 08 9417 6300 or contact VKS-737 on 08 8287 6222.

ENDS

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