

MEDIA RELEASE: Friday 18th March 2016

Celebrating Healthy Smiles all over Queensland

This World Oral Health Day, Sunday March 20th, the QCoal Community Dental Service is all smiles.

Comprising two dental surgeries in a purpose-built semi-trailer, the Dental Service provides dental care and treatment in communities where there is limited access to oral health services.

The service is funded by the independently owned Queensland mining company, QCoal Group, through the QCoal Foundation, with services delivered by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Anyone can make an appointment, and there is no out-of-pocket cost for patients.

Last month the QCoal Community Dental Service celebrated its third anniversary of delivering mobile dental health services to rural and remote Queenslanders, having travelled over 40,000km, and **this week treated its 7,000th patient.**

Local Clermont resident Christian Hayman booked an appointment with the QCoal Community Dental Service for a routine check up this week and on arrival was greeted by the friendly dental team surprising him with the news that he was the 7,000th patient seen by the service.



Caption: Dentist, Callum Blackhall, ready to assist patient Christian Hayman.



Caption: Christian Hayman (centre) and parent's Chris Hayman (left) and Lunette Hayman (right).

"They are really good guys, they do a really good job and I'm really proud to visit the team. This is my third visit; I haven't had to go to any other dentist ever since the first time I stepped in here. This service is really really important, I have a disability from an accident I had back in 1996 and I don't work now, I use to work but now I do a lot of physio, so if I have a toothache it's a real bother for me and it just knocks me back. The team help me to get back on track so I can focus on other things. The service is awesome", Mr Hayman said.

The QCoal Community Dental Service has visited over 20 rural and remote Queensland towns, many on more than one occasion, giving it the ability to now transition patients from initial acute care to a more prevention focus.

"Treating 7,000 patients in three years is an incredible milestone for the QCoal Community Dental Service," QCoal Group Managing Director Chris Wallin said.

"The local communities that have supported the Service since its inception and the incredible RFDS dental team who work so hard, should feel very proud in delivering over \$2million worth of free

"We hope with time, it will be "*smiles all round*" as we reach more and more Queenslanders in the coming few years," Mr Wallin said.

In conjunction with the RFDS, the QCoal Foundation is looking at innovative partnerships and sponsorships to build on its keystone donation to ensure sustainability into the future.

This year the Service will also visit such towns as Collinsville, Richmond, Greenvale, Hughenden, Camooweal, Dajarra and Winton.

For more information visit <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/dental>.

- END -

For more information, to request images or to arrange comment, please contact:

Jessica Case

Marketing & Events Coordinator

Phone: (07) 3852 7519 or 0407 595 014

Email: jcase@rfdsqlld.com.au



About the Royal Flying Doctor Service (Queensland Section)

Queensland's Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing vital health care to anyone travelling, working or living in Queensland.

The RFDS's emergency retrieval service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and has expanded to provide regular transfers of patients for life-saving surgery such as organ transplants and heart surgery, delivering critical support to those who live in rural and remote areas.

The RFDS also delivers a broad range of essential health care services to rural and remote communities, including general practice, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, child and family health, social and emotional wellbeing, women's health and health promotion.

Today, the RFDS provides the finest care to more than 290,000 Australians each year – that's one person every two minutes!

Although the RFDS receives some Federal and State Government funding, we rely on fundraising initiatives and donations from individuals, organisations and the community to help us raise \$10 million each year to keep our aircraft flying and purchase vital medical equipment. To make a donation, visit www.flyingdoctor.org.au or phone 1300 669 569.

QCoal Foundation

QCoal Foundation has been established to deliver community-focused outcomes to enrich the lives of people who live and work in rural and remote Queensland. The Foundation is focused on three broad support areas of Health, Liveability and Education.

QCoal Foundation's key partnership is with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), which is delivering the QCoal Community Dental Service. The service operates with a five-person dental team from an 18-wheel semi-trailer and includes two clinics, a sterilisation area, a reception desk, kitchenette, and the latest panoramic x-ray equipment.

As it evolves, QCoal Foundation will seek further opportunities to contribute to building sustainable regional communities by investing in new community-led initiatives targeting health, liveability and education.

For information about the QCoal Foundation email us at contact@qcoalfoundation.org