

A strong voice for our future

BRITTANY LAUGA MP

B Urb Dev (Urb&Reg Plan)(Hons), C.dec

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER
FOR EDUCATION**



MEDIA RELEASE

29th October 2020

Labor commits to 10-year partnership with Royal Flying Doctor Service

A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will sign a ten-year partnership with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) so they can continue to help Central Queenslanders for many years to come.

The Member for Keppel Brittany Lauga and the Member for Rockhampton Barry O'Rourke said the Palaszczuk Government would continue to invest in health care for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live.

"Our government will sign up to a 10-year partnership with RFDS to continue their life-saving work, providing inter-hospital transfers for patients needing aeromedical retrieval and specialist treatment across the state," Ms Lauga said.

"This is great news for the base here in Rockhampton and the hardworking pilots, nurses and doctors who work for the RFDS.

Mr O'Rourke said the partnership secures RFDS as the inter-hospital transfer service for the long-term.

"Importantly, it provides RFDS with certainty. Under Labor they will continue to receive funding from the State Government for a long time to come.

"Because of this in-principle agreement, thousands more Queenslanders will be able to benefit from this life saving service.

"Transporting patients in medically fitted-out fixed wing planes gives Queenslanders living in regional and remote parts of the state better access to healthcare that will save their lives."

ELECTORATE OFFICE

Shop 6, Yeppoon Central Shopping Centre
42 Park Street, Yeppoon QLD 4703

POSTAL ADDRESS

Post Office Box 1474
Yeppoon QLD 4703

CONTACT

Phone: (07) 4913 1500 Fax: (07) 4913 1509
Email: keppel@parliament.qld.gov.au

WEBSITE

www.brittanylauga.com.au

Ms Lauga said the partnership was part of Labor's Economic Recovery Plan to create jobs.

"The RFDS operate a lifesaving service that has impacted the lives of thousands of Queenslanders.

"This long-term partnership and upgrades to facilities go a long way in ensuring RFDS continue to their crucial work."

RFDS (Queensland Section) Chief Executive Officer Meredith Staib thanked the Queensland Government for their continued investment in the future of what has become one of the largest and most comprehensive aeromedical organisations in the world.

"This partnership provides certainty around the delivery of vital healthcare services for patients, but also great value for money for the state of Queensland," Ms Staib said.

"As a not-for-profit organisation, every dollar generated by the RFDS is reinvested into the delivery of healthcare services in Queensland.

"With some of the world's most highly trained and skilled aviation and medical staff, including 88 nurses, 66 pilots, and 60 doctors, the RFDS in Queensland is incredibly well positioned to uphold our promise to deliver the finest care to the furthest corner of the state.

"This commitment is a commitment to the people of regional, rural and remote Queensland and one we are honoured to carry on for the people we have served for almost 100 years."

The Palaszczuk Government recently also announced \$20 million to go toward RFDS infrastructure upgrades across Queensland including patient transfer facilities and airstrips.

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Facts about the RFDS in Queensland:

- RFDS has partnered with Queensland Health to provide inter-hospital transfer services across Queensland since 1995
- The RFDS fleet of 20 aircraft in Queensland deliver the inter-hospital transfer service between nine strategically located operational bases in Brisbane, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Townsville, Charleville, Cairns, Mount Isa, Longreach and Roma

Last year, RFDS helped 253 people every day in Queensland (that's more than 92,000 occasions of care), including transporting more than 11,700 patients.

NB: MEDIA NOTE: The RFDS has offered to supply some overlay footage, a media kit and/or written statement to any media which requires it.

You can contact the RFDS media team direct via this email address media@rfdsqld.com.au or by phoning 0407 595 014.

ENDS

Contact John 0400787037

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