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Tasmanian Government **Media Release**

Guy Barnett, Minister for Health

8 November 2023

Boost to RFDS rural dental services

The Rockliff Liberal Government has welcomed a new mobile dental truck to the Royal Flying Doctor Service's (RFDS), enhancing its ability to deliver dental services to rural and remote communities in Tasmania.

Minister for Health Guy Barnett said the Government has been a strong supporter of the RFDS for many years as part of its commitment to providing the best possible health outcomes for Tasmanians.

"Our regions are the lifeblood of Tasmania and this service will help increase access to dental care close to home," Minister Barnett said.

"We are investing \$300,000 into the RFDS to support the delivery of dental services in the West Coast, Huon Valley and Central Highlands local government areas.

"Our Government signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the RFDS last year, as part of a 10-year strategic partnership to strengthen the delivery of health services to rural and remote communities, including dental health services.

The Rockliff Liberal Government is doing what matters for Tasmanians by working closely with the Royal Flying Doctor Service to provide Tasmanians with the healthcare they need and deserve.

"Supporting rural and regional communities to access quality healthcare is an important priority for our Government, which is why it is fantastic to see the Royal Flying Doctor Service further enhance their capability to deliver dental services to rural areas," Minister Barnett said.

"The new van will complement our Government's existing strategic partnership with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which provides funding to deliver dental health services to some of Tasmania's most remote communities."

The Rockliff Liberal Government is delivering on its long-term plan for oral healthcare services across the State through our \$6.5 million commitment to deliver additional dental appointments.

"We have already exceeded our goal of delivering 25,350 additional dental appointments since the program began in April 2021," Minister Barnett said.