

PRESS RELEASE

Flying Doctor base officially opened

Mount Isa, Saturday 25 February 2012

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (Queensland Section) (RFDS) officially opened its redeveloped Mount Isa Base on Saturday 25 February with thanks to a \$2 million commitment from Xstrata Mount Isa Mines.

The new multi-million dollar building is the first of its kind for the RFDS and gives the organisation the capacity to provide new mental health, nutrition and other allied health services to the Mount Isa region.

RFDS (Queensland Section) CEO Nino Di Marco said the new building was an investment in a growing demand for services.

While the population base of the Mount Isa region increased by almost 3.5% from 2007 – 2010, the number of clinics offered by the RFDS had increased by close to 60% over the past five years, and the number of patient consultations carried out through these clinics had increased by a third.

"This is a purpose-built complex with room for expansion and growth of RFDS programs in the Mount Isa region," Mr Di Marco said.

Xstrata Zinc Australia Chief Operating Officer Brian Hearne said community research had shown a real need for the services provided by the RFDS.

"Last year, our Community Attitudes Survey conducted in Mount Isa found the highest priority issue of concern to the participants was the need for improved community services and facilities," Mr Hearne said.

"This includes health services particularly in the area of mental health. These areas are therefore a major focus of our future planning for the Xstrata Community Program in North Queensland."

Xstrata Copper North Queensland Chief Operating Officer Steve de Kruijff said the \$2 million commitment by Xstrata Mount Isa Mines had a dual benefit for Xstrata's workforce and the community.

"We fully appreciate the importance of the RFDS and their services particularly when emergencies unfortunately occur. This is a good example of how the mining industry can support the growth of communities," Mr de Kruijff said.

Nino Di Marco thanked Xstrata Mount Isa Mines and the Mount Isa businesses and suppliers who worked on the complex, saying, "It's wonderful to have such a significant local contribution to this building."

"Improving the quality of our facilities will allow us to develop and deliver additional services to meet the needs of communities in North West Queensland and fulfil our vision of providing, facilitating and advocating for equitable access to quality health care," he said.

"As well as housing our employees, the RFDS now has the capacity to provide mental health and social and emotional wellbeing services onsite at the Base, and the new building provides greatly improved facilities for patient consultations.

"We thank Xstrata Mount Isa Mines for its very generous donation," he said.

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Neither the content of the company's website nor the content of any other website accessible from hyperlinks on the company's website is incorporated into, or forms part of, this announcement

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Notes to editors

About the Xstrata Community Program North Queensland

The Xstrata Community Program North Queensland has entered its eighth year of working in partnership with community organisations and government to address the areas of greatest need in the north Queensland communities where our employees live and work.

Funding for the program is part of Xstrata plc's commitment to Corporate Social Involvement (CSI). The company contributes at least one percent of its pre-tax profit to community initiatives.

The program addresses the six key areas of enterprise and job creation, education, environment, social and community development, health, and arts and culture.

Since 2005 we have made a significant contribution to north Queensland and Xstrata has provided almost \$25 million funding for projects in our local host communities such as installing computer rooms in schools, helping to train medical staff, improving medical services, and helping disadvantaged people gain skills and jobs.

We have proudly partnered the Townsville Hospital in previous years to provide much needed state of the art equipment for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, such as the RETCAM II in 2008 to improve outcomes for premature babies in achieving full sight.

About Xstrata plc

We are a major producer of a range of vital commodities used in everything from constructing buildings and delivering electricity, to developing jet engines and mobile phones. We are one of the top five global producers of copper, thermal and metallurgical coal, ferrochrome, zinc and nickel and we also produce silver, lead, platinum, gold, cobalt and vanadium.

Founded in 2002 and headquartered in Switzerland, we operate in over 20 countries and employ over 70,000 people at more than 100 operations and projects around the world. We work in a responsible and sustainable way, with an entrepreneurial spirit and dynamic approach. For more information, visit www.xstrata.com

About Xstrata Copper

We are the fourth largest global copper producer and one of the world's largest producers of smelter, refined and recycled copper, including from third party materials.

The copper we produce is essential to our modern society, being used extensively in electronic, consumer and building products, and with its use in green-technologies, anti-microbial applications and ability to be recycled, it is playing a vital role in our sustainable future.

Headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, we have operations and projects in eight countries and employ over 20,000 people. We play an essential role in the communities in which we live and work, by providing jobs, training, infrastructure, income for suppliers and support for social development. For more information, visit www.xstratacopper.com.