Centralian Advocate, Friday, November 1, 2013 —

**RFDS units boost Alice**

Muıldıki Moyo

ROYAL Flying Doctor Services in Alice Springs will soon be able to accommodate their staff in their own units once its $6 million state-of-the-art housing facility is complete in December.

Michael Toomey, the RFDS manager in Alice, said the intention was to attract staff to the region and retain them.

“This is part of our development program after we did the $1.5 million hangars, the $3 million tourism facility and now we have embarked on a $6 million accommodation facility for our staff which is 13 units of which two of them are three-bedroom and the other 11 are two-bedroom,” he said.

“Staff retention is very high in Alice and the new accommodation will go across the full section of our staff that includes nurses, pilots, engineers, tourism and administration staff.

“We employ more than 40 people in Alice Springs and currently we rent houses around town and we see this move as an important measure in keeping staff in tune with what we are doing as they are the most important asset,” he said.

Mr Toomey said local companies were involved in all the works and he emphasised that tenders for major works in town be given to local companies in order to keep the money in town.

“We offer tenders to local companies as it has always been our intention to keep the money locally,” he said.

Zone A Architects and Planners manager Simon Pettit said they were honoured to have designed the structure.

“The design has material of magnificent quality that includes vitreous tiles and thermally efficient wall and roofing materials and colours,” he said.

ProBuild director, construction and operations manager Mick Betteridge echoed Mr Toomey’s sentiments about projects for local companies.

“The job of this magnitude is a high-profile project which has to be done in a short time frame,” he said.

“We want to congratulate RFDS for relying on locals.

“We have the capacity to do large projects and we have Federal Safety Accreditation which enables us to tender on federal funded projects.

“To have Federal Safety Accreditation in place means we have the capacity and all it takes for jobs of any size.

“It is frustrating though that the

**Tight bonds for inmates**

THE Yuendumu Mediation and Justice Committee continue to make a mark on community harmony by making sure people serving time in the Alice Springs Correctional Centre are kept informed of what’s happening with their family and the community.

Yuendumu Family Violence and Mediation Program coordinator Madhu Panthee recently travelled with six elders from the committee to undertake visiting and mentoring sessions with Warlpiri inmates at Alice Springs Prison as part of the Elders Visiting Program.

The elders were kept busy passing messages and news from relatives, family and communities on to the inmates and noting numerous messages to take back home.

Council President Adrian Dixon says the Elders Visiting Program is an important part of helping maintain the harmony in Yuendumu.

“While these fellas have been in jail, there’s been a lot of changes in the community,” he said.

“Yuendumu is moving on from its troubles, families are getting on well and big things are happening out there.

“It’s important for these fellas to know that and to know about the positive things happening in their community.”