AIRCRAFT NAMED AFTER LEGENDARY BUSH ‘FLYING DOCTOR’

January 31st, 2013

Minister of Health, Dave Tollner, today paid tribute to a doctor who used his love of flying to pioneer the first air medical service in the Territory in the 1930s.

“Clyde Fenton landed his Gypsy Moth on bush strips and ferried people to hospital, providing a great service to the people of the bush,” Mr Tollner said at Darwin Airport as he named one of CareFlight’s new aircraft in honour of the bush legend.

CareFlight is contracted to the Northern Territory Government for medical retrievals and search and rescue missions.

“Dr Fenton was loved for his kindness and determination. It is fitting that his name should be carried today on rescue and retrieval aircraft that follow in his wake,” Mr Tollner said.

CareFlight’s fleet of aircraft and a helicopter include four new super King Air B200 twin engine, turb-prop planes. The first to be named is the Clyde Fenton.

“Over the next year these aircraft are expected to carry more than 3000 patients of all ages across the Top End for treatment.

“We are fortunate to have such an efficient and reliable service.

“Things have come a long way since Dr Fenton’s day – we can rely on modern avionics technology while all he had was the basics coupled with a determination to do the best he could.

“As Territorians we can be reassured that 24 hours a day there are doctors and nurses ready to fly out to help us in our hour of need.”

For more information on Clyde Fenton go to :

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