



Taking to the skies: Pharmacist Jack Buckley (white shirt, sitting on wing) pictured with his Flyin4phun team members before beginning their outback fundraising journey.



Flying pharmacist takes off for fundraiser

Pharmacist Jack Buckley is taking part in the 2025 Outback Air Race to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

A regional pharmacist is embarking on a monumental flight across outback Australia, to help provide essential medical equipment to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

Jack Buckley, a pilot, and co-owner of pharmacies in the central NSW town of Forbes through the Life Pharmacy Group (LPG), has taken to the skies for 15 days, flying more than 3,880 kilometres in the 2025 Outback Air Race to raise vital funds for the RFDS.

Sponsored by LPG, the Flyin4phun aircraft team includes Buckley, Cowra farmer Brad Shephard and Grenfell farmer John Johnson. They are flying from Yulara in the Northern Territory to Carnarvon, Western Australia.

All three pilots helped residents across the Central West during the NSW flood crisis of November 2022, flying supplies to towns along the Lachlan River.

"As a healthcare professional I have incredible respect and admiration for the work

of the Royal Flying Doctor Service—what they do is extraordinary," Buckley said.

"The RFDS is such an integral part of healthcare delivery in outback Australia and having lived in Forbes for almost a decade now, I have seen the importance of this service firsthand. I'm really thrilled that we can be helping to raise funds for them this year. It is such an incredible opportunity for the three of us, it really is 'bucket list' stuff."

More than 40 teams are participating in the Air Race, with the Flyin4phun trio aiming to raise \$100,000.

So far, the Outback Air Race 2025 has raised over \$870,000 to help fit RFDS aircrafts with essential medical equipment, vital for treating sick children and injured patients across Australia.

"We are really proud LPG can support Jack on this incredible flight," said Life Pharmacy Group CEO Michael Flannery.

"LPG has been in regional NSW and the ACT for 70 years, we've seen firsthand the importance of the RFDS, and the lifesaving services it provides communities in rural and remote areas. To have one of our pharmacists representing not only LPG but the Central West of NSW, and the broader pharmacy industry feels very fitting."

Since its launch in 1996, the Outback Air Race has raised nearly \$4 million to equip RFDS aircrafts with vital medical equipment.

The race is a time trial designed to keep competition fair regardless of aircraft size or speed. Prizes are awarded for each race leg, the overall winner, and the top fundraising team. ■

To donate, visit: [Team 22 – Flyin4phun in](https://team-22-flyin4phun.in) [Outback Air Race 2025 at **royal-flying-doctor-service-western-operations.grassrootz.com/outbackairrace25/team-22-flyin4phun**](https://outbackairrace25/team-22-flyin4phun)