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# Kids at ‘controls’ of health service

**By Tyrone Dalton**  
[tdalton@sunrasyiadaily.com.au](mailto:tdalton@sunrasyiadaily.com.au)

HUNDREDS of children took the controls of a Royal Flying Doctor Service aeroplane on Saturday.

The simulator is in town for a week as part of an educational tour teaching families about the life-saving health services the RFDS provides.

Stationed at Bunnings on Saturday, RFDS Victoria education manager Tom Ryan said the simulator was a great way to begin a conversation about health with children and teaching them about the mobile health services provided by teams aboard the planes.

“The simulator is a great way to get a conversation about the health services

we provide happening,” he said.

“A lot of kids when they sit in the pilot’s seat say they’ve never been in an airplane before – it’s very real

for them and the inside of the airplane is real stuff and they are allowed to touch it.”

The RFDS provides primary health needs to

remote families and communities such as general practitioners, women’s health, optometry, diabetes telehealth and a new mental

health program.

Mr Ryan will also visit Murrayville, Red Cliffs East, Mildura, Irymple and Red Cliffs primary schools.



Patsy Barraclough, RFDS Victoria education manager Tom Ryan, back, John Tattersal and Sunraysia RFDS support group president Lou Burke, right.



Taking a close look at the Royal Flying Doctor Service simulator at Bunnings on Saturday are Beau Gitsham, 2, Mia, 2, and Chloe Warburton, 4, and Heidi Gitsham, 3.

Pictures: Carmel Zaccaro