



DEFENCE

MEDIA RELEASE

AIR FORCE SUPPORTS DENTAL SERVICES IN DERBY

4 OCTOBER 2023

Air Force personnel will support the Derby Aboriginal Health Service during October to provide dental services in a part of Western Australia where access to timely dental treatment can be challenging.

The exercise, known as Exercise Kummundoo, will give Air Force personnel the opportunity to engage directly with Indigenous Australians on their ancestral lands, while honing their dentistry skills under different conditions to operating in a base environment.

Officer in charge of the exercise, Flight Lieutenant Maryam Ferooz, said she felt honoured to lead the exercise.

“My team are driven by a sense of purpose, and delivering dental care, as well as oral health training and advice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in remote Australia is a real privilege,” Flight Lieutenant Ferooz said.

“This collaborative endeavour is a testament to the strong ties between Defence and Indigenous communities, demonstrating the importance of working together to address critical health needs.

“I am looking forward to learning from the community, including about their country. I hope to be able to work with a wide range of age groups in Derby to improve oral health.

“The team will also run community sessions to help highlight the importance of good oral health and healthy lifestyle choices, and provide defence career information.”

The term ‘Kummundoo’ comes from the Kalkadoon language, from the Mt Isa Region, and translates to ‘eagle’ and holds significance within Air Force heritage.

Exercise Kummundoo is being held throughout October in collaboration with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), and Derby Aboriginal Health Service.

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Issued by Department of Defence, Canberra, ACT