Speech

Address By

Her Excellency the Honourable Quentin Bryce AC CVO
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

On the occasion of

Official welcome to Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall
QANTAS Founders Museum, Longreach
5 November 2012

Your Royal Highnesses, welcome.

Welcome to Australia – to Longreach.

To the heart of the outback.

With Her Excellency the Governor of QLD Ms Penelope Wensley and Premier, the Hon Campbell Newman, on behalf of all Australians - I am delighted to greet you as you begin this special visit to our country, to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen.

Just a year ago Her Majesty accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, made her 16th tour of Australia. Her warmth and affection shone through, so too, her appreciation of our vibrant, multicultural, contemporary society. Across 6 decades of extraordinary and constant change, The Queen has been a symbol of assurance, consistency, dignity and strength. For so many a source of courage and inspiration.

The celebration of Her Majesty’s 60-year reign, has captured the imagination of Australians of every generation. For those older – heart warming, enduring nostalgia. Each of us respectful of the dedication to duty and commitment to service that reflect those undertakings we heard Her Majesty make in 1952 when she became Queen.

Your Royal Highnesses, we are thrilled that you decided to begin this significant visit here, in Longreach. As an Ilfracombe girl, I can assure you with complete confidence that there is no hospitality more genuine than that of Western Queensland.

I know that you have enjoyed its generous spirit on other occasions, that you are familiar with our much loved, admired institutions that signify so much of this place: School of the Air, QANTAS Founder’s Museum, The Stockman’s Hall of Fame.

This afternoon, we express our gratitude and our pride for our Royal Flying Doctor Service. What it stands for. The work it does every day to put into practice a dream – the dream of the Reverend John Flynn – the mantle of safety.

In 1928 his idea of an aero-medical service for isolated and regional Australia became a reality. Today in 2012, our Flying Doctors deliver first class primary healthcare, and 24-hour emergency service to those who live, work and travel in rural and remote Australia. The finest health care to the furthest corners. There has been a special connection between the Royal family and the RFDS since 1954 when The Queen travelled to the Broken Hill base, for a joyous ceremony.

Your Royal Highnesses, today you strengthen that link – one that means so much to all of us who care deeply about its wonderful work. As you do so, may I offer you again, our very warmest welcome, and I look forward to your message later in the afternoon. My friends, thank you.