

## **Flying doctor pilot who breached drug and alcohol policy sacked after in-flight incident (Australia)**



A PILOT has been sacked for breaching the Queensland Royal Flying Doctor Service's drug and alcohol policy.

The pilot was today dismissed after a disciplinary process was completed into an incident on the RFDS King Air B200 flight between Bundaberg and Brisbane.

The aircraft and all on board landed safely, the RFDS said.

In a written statement, RFDS CEO Nino Di Marco said the pilot had returned a positive test to a substance which is prohibited under the RFDS drug and alcohol policy.

"Patient welfare and employee safety are always of paramount importance," Mr Di Marco said.

"A full investigation including an internal review of the incident is currently under way. The relevant authorities, including CASA and the ATSB, have been notified. We are also providing support to the others who were on the aircraft while investigations continue."

Mr Di Marco defended the integrity and professionalism of the RFDS pilots, saying it was the only incident of its kind in the organisation's history.

RFDS pilots are randomly tested under CASA's drug and alcohol testing program.

"As part of our ongoing safety improvement commitment we will be consulting with CASA to ensure that the testing processes are as effective as possible," Mr Di Marco said.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/national/flying-doctor-pilot-who-breached-drug-and-alcohol-policy-sacked-after-in-flight-incident/story-fndo45r1-1226520475798>