

MEDIA RELEASE

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Airnorth flies Santa and his Helpers to Arnhem Land

Airnorth was very proud to be Santa's airline-of-choice to Arnhem Land yesterday, while he was giving his reindeer a well-deserved rest.

Over 400 children turned out to greet Santa and his helpers in the communities of Elcho Island, Maningrida and Milingimbi.

"It was incredible, there were children absolutely everywhere," said Santa's Helper, who when on leave from the North Pole, helps out in Airnorth's Reservations call centre.

"The looks on their faces when they saw Santa made it so worthwhile, they just lit up like a Christmas tree," she said.

To spread the Christmas cheer even further, another of Santa's helpers, who also moonlights as an Airnorth Cabin Attendant, treated passengers to a safety demonstration while on-board.

"We are so proud to be able to bring Christmas, in the form of Santa and his helpers, to the children in these Arnhem Land communities," said Michael Bridge, Airnorth's Chief Executive Officer.

"It is a service we started running back in the early 1990's and then a few years ago our staff really got on-board in volunteering their time to do this. When you see how the kids react when they spot Santa getting off the plane, it reminds you of what Christmas is truly about," said Mr Bridge.

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Company background

Headquartered in Darwin, Airnorth is now the premier airline based in Northern Australia and carries in excess of 250,000 passengers annually.

Airnorth is a full service carrier accommodating the needs of both business and leisure travellers, operating state-of-art regional jets through its interstate and international network and providing passengers with complimentary catering and a free baggage allowance.



The airline operates over 185 departures weekly, serving 16 destinations in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland and Timor-Leste including:

Darwin	Dili, Timor-Leste	Broome	Elcho Island
Gold Coast	Groote Eylandt	Gove [Nhulunbuy]	Karratha
Kununurra	Maningrida	McArthur River	Milingimbi
Mt Isa	Perth	Port Hedland	Townsville

Passengers can also earn and redeem Qantas Frequent Flyer points on all Airnorth scheduled services.

Airnorth, through its partnership with Qantas Airways, offer seamless connectivity including through check in and interline baggage facilities, with Qantas code sharing on the majority of Airnorth's Jet services.

In addition to scheduled departures, Airnorth operates contract and ad-hoc charter services for a wide variety of companies undertaking oil & gas, mining, defence and government activity.

Airnorth directly employs more than 200 staff in Darwin and provides indirect employment through the contracting of ground service operations across its destinations.

Airnorth was recently awarded as the winner of the **2012 Large Services Award** at the Northern Territory's Chief Minister's Export and Industry Awards that recognise the important contribution that NT businesses make to the local economy through job creation and increased prosperity in the community.

