

Source: Daily Liberal, 16 Nov 07.

'Medico' flight back in air

An early morning flight from Sydney to Dubbo used by health professionals has been reinstated, according to Dubbo City Council.

The 6.30am Regional Express (Rex) flight, which was cancelled on September 24 for "maintenance and training issues", is now back on the itinerary.

Dubbo mayor Greg Matthews has welcomed the news, describing it as a great outcome for Dubbo.

"Passengers through the Dubbo Airport last month were up to a record 17, 593, indicating the airport is strongly supported by Dubbo and surrounding areas," he said. "Rex's 6.30am flight is integral to our medical services and the area health service.

"It's good to see it's been brought back."

Greater Western Area Health Service (GWAHS) did not wish to comment yesterday.

GWAHS alerted Dubbo MP Dawn Fardell to the cancellation of the flight last month, raising concerns about the impact it could have on the delivery of health services.

Rex eventually posted a release on its website, advising that the "changes commence on September 24 for a six week period".

"As well as normal commercial considerations these changes have been prompted in part by Air Link training requirements for new pilots which are currently under way and by some scheduled maintenance requirements on one of the two Air Link Beech 1900 aircraft," the release said.

Rex did not return the Daily Liberal's calls yesterday in time for comment.