

***SPECTRUM OF THE SEAS* SETS SAIL ON FIRST HUMANITARIAN CRUISE FOR BUSHFIRE FIRST RESPONDERS**



SYDNEY, 29 Feb. 2020 – [Royal Caribbean International](#) latest game-changing ship *Spectrum of the Seas* sailed out of Sydney Harbour this evening on her first humanitarian cruise in support of Australia's volunteer first responder community, who worked tirelessly during the recent bushfire crisis. Carrying over 3,500 dedicated volunteer first responders and their families, *Spectrum of the Seas'* first complimentary 4-night coastal cruise will return to Sydney on Wednesday 4 March.

The second "Thank You" cruise will follow the same itinerary from 7-11 March. With over 12,000 registrations received and in response to the overwhelming demand, Royal Caribbean has announced a third cruise from 13-17 March.

"We have been blown away by the first responder community's response. To express our gratitude, we feel privileged to now be dedicating three cruises to those who have worked tirelessly to protect our Australian land," says Gavin Smith, Managing Director, Royal Caribbean International Australia and New Zealand.

(more)

Volunteers and their families have been invited from all over Australia to sail on *Spectrum of the Seas* over the coming weeks, including the Barnes family from Albury, NSW who were onboard today when the first humanitarian cruise departed Sydney.

“We have 11 volunteer firefighters in our family, so we’re beyond excited to all be going on a holiday together. It’s been a tough couple of months and we’re extremely thankful to have this incredible opportunity to kick up our heels and enjoy quality time with loved ones,” said Kathleen Barnes.

Royal Caribbean worked with state-based volunteer agencies directly to notify and encourage eligible volunteers to register for their complimentary cruise. The company partnered with Lifeline to provide individual support sessions for any guests who have been impacted by the bushfires and need to talk through calling the Bushfire Recovery line 13HELP on 13 43 57.

Spectrum of the Seas sailed into Sydney’s Overseas Passenger Terminal at 17:00 this evening, crossing paths with sister ship *Ovation of the Seas* who departed on a 12-night New Zealand cruise.

About Royal Caribbean International

[Royal Caribbean International](#) has been delivering innovation at sea for more than 50 years. Each successive class of ships is an architectural marvel featuring the latest technology and guest experiences for today’s adventurous traveler. The cruise line continues to revolutionise vacations with itineraries to more than 270 destinations in 72 countries on six continents, including Royal Caribbean’s private island in The Bahamas, Perfect Day at CocoCay, the first in the Perfect Day Island Collection, which will be joined in 2022 by Perfect Day at Lelepa, the first private island cruise destination in the Southern Hemisphere.

Media can stay up to date by following [@Royalcaribbean_aunz](#) on Instagram and visiting [RoyalCaribbeanPressCenter.com](#). For additional information visit [www.royalcaribbean.com/aus/en](#).

###

Media contact:

Lauren Myers laurenmyers@rcclapac.com / 0413 655 924

Natalie Duncan natalieduncan@thinkerbell.com / 0404 185 537