



ST VINCENT'S
HOSPITAL
MELBOURNE

St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund

Improving health services and medical
education in the Pacific Region

Presenting the Pacific Health Fund

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*2011 Northern
Provincial Hospital
staff, Luganville,
Santo, Vanuatu.
Photo Credit
Jacinta Carty*



Background and History

St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund (PHF) was established in mid-2008 prior to the death of Associate Professor Andrew Dent AM. Established with the aim of continuing the support of healthcare initiatives in the Pacific region that were inspired and led by Andrew during his tenure as Director Emergency Medicine at St. Vincent's Hospital Melbourne between 1995 and 2008.

The PHF was established primarily using income from a Service Agreement between St Vincent's and Oilsearch Ltd (PNG) that ran between 1998 and 2011. The Agreement saw medical support provided to remote health service clinics in Papua New Guinea. Under this Agreement, St Vincent's Emergency Department physicians provided on-call medical support via telephone and email. Andrew Dent serviced this contract predominantly by himself for many years. Support and leave back-fill was provided by physicians within the Emergency Department.

In mid-2008, Andrew Dent met with St Vincent's Foundation Director, David Jones, and Director of Mission, Marcelle Mogg. It was agreed that a fund be established to continue the work initiated in the region through Andrew's leadership.

With support of the Hospital Board and Executive, the St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund was officially established in May 2008. The founding members of the PHF Committee were:

Associate Professor Andrew Dent

Members of the Dent family: Blandine Dent and children, Stefan and Christian

David Jones, Director, St Vincent's Foundation

Marcelle Mogg, Director of Mission, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

Dr Michael Augello

Dr Antony Chenhall

Dr Guy Sansom

Dr Georgina Phillips



In later years, as the workload increased, Drs Antony Chenhall, Michael Augello, Jennie Hutton and Sarah Ward became involved. The clinicians involved chose to sacrifice most of their income from this work in the knowledge it would result in the formation of the Fund that Andrew had envisioned for many years. The contract with Oil Search continued after Andrew's death until 2011 strengthening the Fund's balance.

Andrew Dent's passion for teaching and passing on his knowledge to other health care workers, and in particular to students, lives on in the activity of the Pacific Health Fund.

*Assoc. Prof.
Dr Andrew Wesley
Dent (1955-2008)*



Aims of the Fund

- To establish and promote linkages between St. Vincent's and health workers and health institutions, particularly the mission sector, in the Pacific Islands region
- To assist in capacity building of health services and personnel through provision of directed grants to institutions and individuals for specific projects or activities
- To promote, provide and enable opportunities for medical and other health worker related education in the Pacific Islands region.
- To provide funding opportunities for initiatives that have difficulty attracting mainstream (non-government / government) financial assistance, with the longer term hope that such initiatives, if successful, will go on to attract sustainable mainstream funding.

Key Activities of the Fund

1. To administer Andrew Dent Scholarships offered each year to individual students in the health sector to help support volunteer work, student electives and study trips within the Pacific Islands region and
2. To administer Grants which are offered all year round for individuals, groups, or organisations, where the proposal fulfils the Aims of the Fund.



*Wound care at
Efate, Vanuatu.
Photo credit
Jeremy Gale*

The Fund today

Mission, Objectives and Strategy

In 2020–2021, after celebrating its first ten years, the Committee of the Pacific Health Fund worked to refresh and renew the Fund’s goals, vision and strategy.

Mission

The Fund’s Mission Statement remains:

- i. to promote and enable opportunities for health worker education
- ii. to assist in capacity building of health services and personnel
- iii. to create and promote links between St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne and Pacific health workers and their institutions.

Objectives

SVHM’s Pacific Health Fund advocates for, and partners with, the health sector in the Pacific Islands Region by:

- 1. Working with healthcare workers and institutions in the Region; facilitating and promoting professional links and institutional linkages aligned to our Mission to deliver excellence in healthcare
- 2. Supporting capability development in healthcare workers to increase institutional capacity across health services by providing direct grants for specific projects or activities
- 3. Promoting, providing and facilitating opportunities for medical and other health worker related education in the Region
- 4. Funding initiatives that have difficulty attracting start-up finance, with the longer term hope that such initiatives, if successful, will attract sustainable mainstream funding.

Strategy

The Fund has identified four key strategic areas that will assist in meeting these objectives going forward:

1. Hosting and promoting online Pacific region events in order to connect, support, advocate for and initiate activities and programs for Pacific health improvement and education that could be financed by the St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund
2. Establish the St Vincent's Pacific Health Network to promote interdisciplinary care and connection into the Pacific region and between St Vincent's staff, Pacific regional stakeholders and clinicians
3. Establishment the St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund Ambassador Program; utilising stakeholders who have been supported and connected by the Fund to promote, enable and assist future activities and projects that further the goals and mission of the St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund
4. Involvement of Scholarship and Grant recipients in acknowledging and promoting the PHF

Purpose and Responsibilities

The St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund Committee will administer the PHF in accordance with the Terms of Reference and this Framework. See



*Dr Colin Banks
and Dr. Dennis Lee,
Townsville Hospital,
2015*

Finance

Financial stewardship of The Fund is within the St Vincent's Foundation.

Reports are received twice yearly detailing:

- Incomings (including donations, interest earned, and any other income)
- Outgoings (including grants, scholarships, and any other costs incurred by the Fund)

Costs

All monies donated to The Fund are directed towards grants and scholarships only. Any other costs incurred, including wages, to come from any interest earned by The Fund.

Donors & Volunteers

The Fund gratefully acknowledges the generosity of both its donors and volunteers, without whom the Fund would not exist.

Dissolution of the Fund

Any decision to dissolve the Fund requires a two-thirds majority of all voting Committee members and must include a sitting Executive member of the Committee.

Dispersal of any remaining monies should be to one or more charities who the Committee deems as best suited to match the aims and objectives of the Fund in the Pacific Region.

The Committee's recommendation – together with the reason/s for dissolution – would then be forwarded to the SVHM CEO for approval.

Thank you for all support and ongoing involvement. We warmly encourage ongoing involvement through donations, or by spreading the word and encouraging networks in the Pacific to partner with us.

For more information on **St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund** and our projects, please contact us.

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