



**ST VINCENT'S  
PACIFIC HEALTH FUND**

## 2016: a year in review

### **Pacific Health Fund: committed to improve health services and medical education resources in the Pacific Region**

2016 saw the Pacific Health Fund engage with health workers in Vanuatu, Fiji, PNG, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Cambodia. The Committee is supported by St. Vincent's Mission and St. Vincent's Foundation and administered by committed staff volunteering their time for this wide range of activities and projects. The Fund engages with health workers in the region to provide essential equipment to hospitals, facilitate clinical exchange programs for health workers and assist in capacity building through financial grants and scholarships. In 2016, the committee worked hard to maintain the vibrant health of the Pacific Health Fund and provided nearly \$60,000 in financial support to projects that included training and movement in over 10 different countries. Here's a snapshot of the activities we supported.

#### **General Project Grants;**

- Manrenga Viane is a Kiribati nurse who came to Melbourne for a four week training program in managing services in acute mental health settings at St. Vincent's Hospital
- Drs Vincent Atua and Bobby Welsh travelled to Suva, Fiji from PNG for Pacific regional leadership workshop in emergency medicine
- In Western Samoa, 50 participants including nurses, interns, trainees, and first responders participated in Primary Trauma Care courses led by Dr L'amour Hansell. New instructors for future courses were also trained in an instructor course.
- Dr. Evelyn Tuivaga travelled from Fiji to the United Kingdom for a two week training program in vaccine epidemiological evaluation and attendance at international conference
- Doreen Siope and Willie Falebo are Solomon Islands nurses that spent two weeks at the Royal Darwin Hospital participating in a training program in triage, life support, building service improvements for emergency care



**Drs Vincent Atua and Bobby Welsh in Suva, Fiji**



**Willie, Doreen and ED Nurse, Anna, at the Darwin Hospital ED**

## Andrew Dent Student Scholarship

In 2016, we granted scholarships for the following medical student electives;

- Doug Tjandra experienced a four week placement with Vanuatu's Vila Central Hospital in General Medicine, Surgery and the Emergency Department.
- Matthew Peverelle experienced a four week placement with Vanuatu's Vila Central Hospital in general medicine ward, the paediatric ward and the emergency department.
- Joshua Szanyi experienced four weeks participating in research project with Fiji's Colonial War Memorial Hospital for investigating respiratory distress syndrome in preterm newborns



Drs Tjandra and Sale in Vanuatu



**Thomas Trauer Fund**  
Barbara Trauer, Chamroeun Sao, Pisey Huong, Chee Ng, James Trauer, Hong Sok, Blandine Dent during their Community Mental Health Training Program in Melbourne.

We also have partnered with the **Thomas Trauer Fund**, which aims to support mental health capacity development in the Asia-Pacific region. In February, we supported a project to allow three Cambodian doctors to attend Melbourne for a three week training program in community mental health, based at St. Vincent's Hospital.

One hundred per cent of donations received by the Pacific Health Fund are allocated to improving health services and medical education resources in the Pacific Region with no overhead administrative costs.



Manrenga Viane and Georgina Phillips, Kiribati

**If you would like more information on these or other projects don't hesitate to contact us**  
We warmly thank you for your support and encourage your ongoing involvement through donations, spreading the word about our valuable work by 'liking' us on Facebook and encouraging your networks in the Pacific to apply for grants and support us.

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