



ST VINCENT'S PACIFIC HEALTH FUND

Committed to improving
health services and medical
education resources in the
Pacific Region

2017: a year in review

2017 saw the Pacific Health Fund engage with health workers in Vanuatu, Fiji, PNG, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Samoa and Cook Islands.

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 2017, the committee worked hard to maintain the vibrant health of the Pacific Health Fund and provided just over \$34,000 in financial support to 11 projects that included training and support in 10 different countries. Here's a snapshot of the activities we supported.

General Project Grants



- Dr. Trina Sale, Director of Emergency Medicine, Solomon Islands was supported to attend an Advanced Life Support Resuscitation Instructor course in Adelaide. The ALS2 course provides a standardised approach to cardiopulmonary resuscitation in adults course. This enables Dr. Trina to train other health staff in Advanced Life Support Course in the Solomon Islands.

- We Collaborated with the Pasifika Medical Association (PMA) and The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists - Faculty of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (FCAP) during the Mental Health Workshop for the Pacific Psychiatry Group. Pacific Health Fund provided additional support to ensure representatives from Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa and Cook Islands were able to participate in pacific health policy, service delivery and practice
- We assisted with the travel expenses of rural PNG doctors attending PNG's Annual Medical Symposium in the capital city, Port Moresby. Run by the Medical Society of PNG, this is the major CME activity and scientific meeting for PNG's doctors. The 2017 theme was "Access to Safe Surgery and Safe Anaesthesia".



Andrew Dent Student Scholarships

In 2017, we granted scholarships for the following medical student electives;

- Alexander Umbers became the first independent Australian medical elective at Hospital Nacional Guido Valaderes (HNGV), the country's only tertiary referral hospital. Alexander worked in the female internal medicine ward, involving ward work, outpatient clinics, in theatre and with echocardiograms, as well as with the emergency department, with collaborative education sessions on resuscitation, rheumatic heart disease, and emergency treatment of acute coronary syndrome.



- Tasmyn Soller completed a combined two-week clinical and research placement at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva, Fiji. Her time was split between clinical work with the paediatric team and research with the invasive pneumococcal disease surveillance team

- Brendon Kite undertook a six-week medical elective at Vila Central Hospital in Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu. Brendon worked with the surgical team, the medical team, as well

as participating in outreach diabetes screening clinics.

- Close to Christmas, Claire Leong attended an elective at Vaiola Hospital in Tongatapu, Tonga, spending time in mental health, emergency department and surgical wards.
- Dora Huang undertook a medical elective at Kompiam Rural Hospital, a medical centre in Enga province of the northern Highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Her time included an eight hour hike to a small village, Lapalama, accompanying several hospital doctors on patrol to an aid post, experiencing unique tropical diseases endemic to the true remoteness of the PNG "deep forest".



- Elise Cannan completing a placement with the Fiji Village Project, a project coordinated by the School of Medicine within Fiji National University. Elise participated in basic cardiovascular screening, and time with the Paediatrics and Obstetrics department in Suva's Colonial War Memorial Hospital.



- Michael Woodburn travelled to the Cook Islands to study for a month at the hospital on Rarotonga. He described his time with outpatients, emergency, paediatrics and obstetrics as 'vibrant and compelling'.

- Sophia Hill's self-directed study focused on understanding the challenges of women's healthcare in Pacific. She worked with doctors, nurses and midwives at Gizo Hospital, the second largest hospital in the Solomon Islands and referral hospital for the greater Western Province.



The St. Vincent's Pacific Health Fund was established in 2008. 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.

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.

If you would like more information on these or other projects don't hesitate to contact us.

www.stvpacifichealth.org

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