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Co-Chair
St. Vincent's Pacific Health Fund

25 September 2017

ACTIVITY COMPLETION REPORT FOR THE GRANT GIVEN TO THE PNG SOCIETY FOR RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH

Less than half of PNG's 89 districts have even *one* doctor. Of those that are so lucky, the doctors are often working in very isolated conditions, having to manage an extreme variety of surgery, obstetrics, paediatrics and infectious diseases, sometimes on their own. This project aimed to support these doctors by helping them to come out for some much needed CME and fellowship with other remote doctors at the Annual PNG Medical Symposium and the Rural Society meetings that followed.

Overview of the 2017 annual Medical Symposium and Rural Society meetings:

The Annual Medical Symposium is run by the Medical Society of PNG and is the major CME activity and scientific meeting for PNG's doctors, being held on different themes and in different locations around the country each year.

This year's theme was "Access to Safe Surgery and Safe Anaesthesia" and was held in Port Moresby. The theme was of particular importance to us as rural doctors and we felt it was important that we not only be able to attend the meetings, but also to be participating in presenting several papers in the main sessions on the perspective of rural generalists in the provision of surgery and anaesthesia in remote PNG.

The Symposium lasted for 3 days and was followed by the various Society meetings – the Societies are the various professional bodies representing the different specialty groups. The PNG Society for Rural and Remote Health represents doctors working in rural and remote locations across the country. These Society meetings were held for 2 days and the program of our meetings is attached in Appendix 1.



Overview of the key outcomes and messages of the 2017 annual Medical Symposium and the PNG Society of Rural and Remote Health meetings:

The grant of AUD\$10,000 provided by the Pacific Health Fund was used to subsidize the expenses of rural doctors to attend the symposium; this included costs incurred in travel (mostly by air, but some by motorboat and air), accommodation, and registration. Only doctors who were not receiving any subsidy from other sources were supported. A subsidy of 75% was given to most doctors except for two doctors who received 100% subsidy due to special circumstances. All doctors receiving support were actively involved in providing medical services in rural and remote communities in PNG. Because of the major cash flow issues affecting PNG's economy, many of these doctors have suffered major pay cuts and their health services are not able to offer them support for CME activities such as this. The PHF support was therefore most timely and appreciated.

The list of names and amounts provided is included in Appendix 2.

Reflections on the symposium and the achievement of goals for both the Symposium and the Society meetings:

The Society meetings have been conducted since 2009 but we can honestly say that this was probably our best meeting to date. There was a good attendance by young PNG doctors as well as some senior ones from very remote locations, together with medical students and many other interested parties. As awareness of the Society has grown the numbers attending has increased. The ability to be able to support doctors to come definitely helped and was hugely appreciated by all who received the support. Both the CME activities as well as the associated dinner made a great opportunity not only for learning but for sharing of ideas and experiences as well as supporting the newer young doctors that have just joined on in rural service and training.

Summary of funds expended:

AUD\$10,000 translated to PGK 25,265.29 in our accounts. A total of PGK 21,363.18 was expended in providing support in the above subsidies leaving a balance of PGK 3,902.11 yet to be expended. We hope to be able to use these funds to support a course in June of next year on the Ponsetti management of club foot.



Back row from left: Medical Students 1-4, Dr Gabriel Yohang (Mingende Hospital, Simbu Province), Medical Student, Dr Ben Radcliffe (Kudjip Hospital, Jiwaka Province)

Middle row from left: Dr Maggie Taune (Daru Hospital, Western Province), Dr Valerie Archer (Kapuna Hospital, Gulf Province), Rural Pharmacist, Dr Sharon Brandon (Rumginae Hospital, Western Province), Dr Cindy Gaso (Veifa Hospital, Central Province), Dr Raymond Saulep (Mambisanda Hospital, Enga Province),

Front row from left: Dr Josephine Kipit, Dr Rebecca Williams (Kompam Hospital, Enga Province), Dr Flora Jethro (Oilsearch, Moro, Southern Highlands), Dr Felix Diaku (Vunapope Hospital, East New Britain)

Absent from Photo: Dr Damaris Kneif (Finschaffan), Dr Florence Muga, Dr David Mills (Kompam Hospital, Enga), Dr Bill McCoy (Kudjip Hospital), Dr Hogande Kiafuli (Gaubin Hospital, Kar Kar Island)



Appendix - 1

Annual Meetings of the PNG Society for Rural and Remote Health.

Theme – “Building on the Foundations –strengthening our achievements in training and building for the future.”

Program.

❖ Thursday Sept 7th

8.30 am *Registrations and welcome.*

Morning Session – *“Scratching the itch? – How is the training of undergraduates and post graduates for rural work progressing in PNG?”*

9.00 - 9.30 am **Professor Nekapi Tefuarani** – *“Plans for the new University of Medicine and Health Sciences. Will this change the way we train doctors?”*

9.30 – 10am *Generalist training experiences in the Pacific and elsewhere – the World Summit on Rural Generalism, Cairns 2017*

10 – 10.30am **Morning Tea**

10.30 – 11.15 *MMED (Rural) training in PNG – a 10 year review and will training more doctors mean more RURAL doctors? – Dr David Mills*

11.15 – 12.00 *The 5th year MBBS Rural blocks – can we do more? – Dr Atha Kari, Dr Valerie Archer*

12.00 - 12.30pm **Working groups**

12.30pm **Lunch!!**



❖ **Thursday Sept 7th - continued**

Afternoon Session – *New technologies and medical education*

1.30pm – 1.50pm *Dr Hogande Kiafuli - HINARI and other internet resources*

1.50pm – 2.15pm *Dr Maggie Taune - Social media and advancing rural medicine
– useful tool or waste of precious time?*

2.15pm – 2.45pm *Boring stret! Improving our public speaking
– Dr David Mills*

2.45 – 3.00pm **Afternoon Tea**

3.00 – 4.00pm *The great debate – preparation
Topic – “PNG needs the second medical school”*

4.00- 5.00pm *Solar fridges – installation and troubleshooting*

5.00pm **Close**

❖ **Thursday evening Sept 7th – from 7pm**

*PNG Society for Rural and Remote Health Annual Dinner.
Venue – Holiday Inn (7pm)*



❖ **Friday Sept 8th**

8.30am – 10am

THE GREAT DEBATE

10.00 - 10.20 am

Management of MDR and XDR -TB in Daru – Dr Maggie Taune

10.20 – 10.40am

Crisis management in emergency and anaesthesia – video and discussion

10.40 – 11am

Morning Tea

10.30 – 11.15

Working with overseas groups –student, registrar and consultant rotations in PNG: Can we make it work? A discussion.

11.15 – 12.00

Doing better regional arm blocks – Dr Harry Aigeeleng

12.00 - 12.30pm

Case Study – Dr Cindy Gaso (MMED 1)

12.30pm

Lunch

❖ **Friday Sept 8th - continued**

1.30pm – 2.00pm

Surgical management of complex open forearm injuries – Dr Ben Radcliffe

2.00pm – 2.20pm

Use of Gene Xpert as a cervical cancer screening tool – Dr Rebecca William (MMED 2)

2.20pm – 3pm

Two very different district hospitals – Telefomin and Gaubin - Dr Winis Karaiye and Dr Hogande Kiafuli

3.00 – 3.30pm

Afternoon Tea