



ST VINCENT'S
HOSPITAL
MELBOURNE

St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund

The St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund engages with health workers in the Pacific Region to provide essential equipment to hospitals, facilitate clinical exchange programs and to assist in capacity building through financial grants and scholarships.

Established in 2008, the Fund provides support to health workers in Pacific countries like Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Timor Leste and Solomon Islands.

The Fund is a rarity in today's society. 100% of all money donated has gone directly into funding either grants or scholarships. Administrative costs are zero. This has been achieved through the generous support of the St Vincent's Hospital which has waived any administrative fees, and the committee who donate their time to assess all applications.

Support continues at the Hospital through the Emergency Department, Mental Health, Mission and Foundation Directorates.

Over the past 11 years, more than \$200,000 has been awarded to 29 successful grant applications across nine of our Pacific neighbours. In 2018 alone, the committee provided just over \$32,000 for 13 projects that included training and support in six different countries.

The committee are extremely grateful for the assistance they receive from the community for this unique fund.

100%

of all money
donated has gone
directly into funding
either grants or
scholarships.



University of Melbourne student, Jacinta Carty in Vanuatu's Northern Provincial Hospital, with grandmother and babies

About the Fund

The St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund aims to:

- Promote and enable educational opportunities for medical and other health workers in the Pacific region
- Assist in capacity building of health services and personnel through the provision of directed grants to institutions and individuals for specific projects
- Create and promote links between St Vincent's, health workers and health institutions, particularly within the mission sector, in the Pacific region

These goals are achieved by providing financial support to selected grant applications and student scholarships.

Timor Leste Cardiologist Dr Andre Monteiro and Deakin University student, Alex Umbers



Associate Professor Andrew Dent, former Director of the St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Emergency Department, established the Pacific Health Fund.

The History

The St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund was established in 2008 by Associate Professor Andrew Dent, former Director of the St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Emergency Department.

A/Prof Dent was an outstanding doctor with a lifelong passion for health in the developing world. He maintained ongoing contact with Papua New Guinea health care and medical education.

He was a visionary, a tireless advocate for the equitable 'whole-of-health' treatment of all patients, no matter what their station in life or their location on the planet.

A/Prof Dent was just 53 when he died in 2008 after a year-long battle with colon cancer. He donated his entire earnings from his many years of out-of-hours work to set-up the St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund.

“Since 2008, over **\$220,000** has been awarded to 34 successful grant applications in support of nine of our Pacific neighbours.”



Stand-out Projects

There have been many exceptional and highly beneficial projects undertaken over the past 11 years. Here are some examples of a few key projects:

- The ongoing partnership with PNG Society of Rural and Remote Health which is a three year investment in professional development for rural doctors
- Working with the Yomunka Health Board for a year's worth of training health programs for volunteers in 2009
- Equipment and support for the children's high dependency unit on the Solomon Islands in 2010
- Mental health placement with St Vincent's mental health training program for the Nurse in Charge at Kiribati mental health services in 2016



Lapalama Aid Post, PNG.
Stephan Dent, University of Melbourne medical student washing and dressing Mary's Yaw sore with assistance from her brother Samuel.

Grants and Scholarships

The St Vincent's Pacific Health Fund provides financial support for a wide variety of projects and activities to improve health care and medical education resources in the Pacific Region.

The Andrew Dent Scholarship is offered each year to health sector students who need support to undertake volunteer work, electives or study trips that aid people in the Pacific Region.

To apply for a grant or a scholarship head to <https://www.svhm.org.au>

“Being part of an elective in Fiji was a whirlwind of emotions, equating to an unforgettable experience. My first impression was one of shock about the lack of resources. The entire labour ward had one blood pressure cuff, no tourniquets (a glove tied around the arm was used instead) and only one working Cardiotocograph Machine.”

Scholarship Recipient Jordyn Dangen, Fiji, July 2016



Dr. Colin Banks (Aust)
& Dr. Dennis Lee (PNG)

“My greatest thanks and appreciation goes to the team at St Vincent's for giving me this opportunity of learning and experience which I have found immensely valuable. The changes this trip has made to my perspectives and practice have been significant and I pass these on every time I am with my trainees and students. It's my hope that this kind of support will continue to be provided to other doctors from my country.”

Dr. Dennis Lee, Lecturer and Emergency Physician, Emergency Medicine Discipline, School of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Papua New Guinea.



Scholarship Recipient
Elise Cannan on
placement in Fiji

“I was reminded of my motivation for going to medical school - working with great teams to help improve the health and wellbeing of those in need. The friendships I made are just the beginning of long-term personal and professional relationships that I'm sure will draw me back to work in the Pacific region.”

Elise Cannan Jan 2017, Fiji.

Please give today

DONOR DETAILS

Date:	/ /	Name:		
Address:				
Email:				
Phone:		(Mobile):		Amount donated: \$

PAYMENT METHOD

Credit card:	Mastercard Visa Amex	Card number:		
Name on card:		Expiry date:	/	CW:
Signature:				



Online: www.stvpacifichealth.org

Follow the links to Donate Online and choose 'Pacific Health Fund' from the drop down menu in the 'My gift is given to' section to ensure your donation is directed to our fund.



Phone: 9231 3361



Cheque: St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Foundation Office - PO Box 2900 Fitzroy VIC 3065 AUSTRALIA



In person: St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Foundation Office, 55 Victoria Parade Fitzroy VIC 3065