

## YOUNG DENTISTS VOLUNTEER GRANT 2023

### Overview of Volunteer Programs

On the application form for the ICD Young Dentists Volunteer Grant, you are asked to prioritise three programs that you would like to volunteer with. The ICD grant is limited to participation in these programs led by ICD Fellows. To assist you with your choices, summaries of the programs are given below. The summaries below give only an indication of the level of involvement that young dentist volunteers may expect. The level of involvement in any program is at the discretion of the program leader giving due consideration to the clinical capabilities of the volunteers.

#### 1. Collaborating Centre for Innovation in Population Oral Health (CIPO)

Previously this placement was presented as 'Healthy Kids Cambodia' and in recent months that program has shifted to be placed with CIPO at the University of Puthisastra. The vision of CIPO is to build the capacity of the Cambodian health system to deliver the highest attainable standard of oral health care. As such, it aims to be a leader in population oral health. A placement at CIPO could be considered as an internship in population oral health. Candidates would get exposure to a range of clinical programs: school based oral health, maternal child health, the teaching clinic and geriatric dentistry depending on the timing of the visit.



**Team Leaders:**

Bethy Turton and Callum Durward

**Where:**

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**Timing:**

Generally, any time of year (when schools are open). Timing will predict the range of activities performed. March thru May and July thru November are preferred times.

**Type of treatment:**

Basic prevention and rehabilitative dental treatment using mobile units

**Anticipated participation:** The candidate would have the chance to teach dental students and work in a community setting and we hope that they might be able to work with us on some of more strategic agendas that support the Cambodian National Action Plan for Oral Health. While the school based oral health program is our flagship program, we would be especially interested in candidates who would like to work with older adults as this is a program we are trying to develop. We may ask the candidate to assist in ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the project, conducting clinical audits, conducting key stakeholder interviews with our partners to get feedback, or assisting in the development of health promotion resources. Candidates with less than 5-years of post-graduation experience would be limited to preventive and minimally invasive clinical procedures due to local Dental Council restrictions.

## 2. M'Lop Tapang, Cambodia



The M'Lop Tapang program operates from a dental surgery located within a medical centre. The program provides dental treatment for street children and their families, dental prevention and education to the families and communities of M'Lop Tapang and training of local Cambodian medical staff regarding oral health. The program also mentors final year dental students and new graduates to promote volunteering amongst younger dentists. Dr Petrina Bowden sources dental volunteers and dental students and dental materials for the program as well as provides dental care during her regular visits to M'Lop Tapang. The program depends on volunteer dentists to provide services.

<b>Team Leader:</b>	Petrina Bowden
<b>Where:</b>	Sihanoukville, Cambodia
<b>Timing:</b>	Generally, any time of year
<b>Type of treatment:</b>	general dental treatment in fixed clinic
<b>Anticipated participation:</b>	preventive, restorative and exodontia for children

## 3. Smiles for the Pacific Dental Project, Fiji



SFTP was formed in late 2012 by Dr Jonathan Cole and Dr Mahendra Moopna of New Zealand with the aim of training, upskilling and mentoring Fijian health professionals to meet complex dental needs in underserved Western Fiji. The program operates with the support and collaboration of the Fijian Ministry of Health. Lautoka Dental Hospital serves as the treatment and training base for the program. The program depends on volunteer dental professionals from New Zealand and Australia who are willing to share their knowledge and skills by treating cases beyond the skill of local dental practitioners during training sessions. Volunteers may also conduct free lectures and workshops for the benefit of local dental professionals. All treatment provided is free of charge to patients. The clinic is up to Australasian standards with equipment and the lay out is user friendly.

<b>Team Leader:</b>	Jonathan Cole
<b>Where:</b>	Lautoka, Fiji (30 minutes north of Nadi)
<b>Timing:</b>	Generally, any time of year

**Type of treatment:** general dental treatment with focus on composites and anterior endodontics  
in fixed clinic

**Anticipated participation:** preventive, restorative, endodontics and exodontia

#### 4. Kimberley Dental Team, Western Australia



The Kimberley Dental Team, comprised of volunteer dental and allied health professionals, commenced operating in 2009 and operates in the remote Kimberley Region of Western Australia and in Perth. The KDT mission is to improve the wellbeing and oral health of Aboriginal children and communities in the Kimberley and of disadvantaged people in the Perth area, thereby reducing the long-term cost and suffering dental disease inflicts. The team provides both oral health education and dental treatment. Over the past 14 years KDT professionals have mentored and supervised 39 final year dental students.

**Team Leader:** John Owen AM

**Where:** Kimberley Region of Western Australia

**Timing:** Generally, any time of year

**Type of treatment:** general dental treatment using mobile dental units

**Anticipated participation:** preventive, restorative and exodontia primarily on children

#### 5. Project Yeti, Nepal



Project Yeti commenced in 2012 and focuses on the provision of quality dental care, both preventative and restorative, to the underprivileged people of Nepal. Project Yeti operates on minimal costs thanks to the support of volunteers, including the Kopan monastery which offers free accommodation and meals for volunteers. The Monastery also pays utility costs including diesel for the generator used to run the dental equipment. In 2016 Members of Project Yeti initiated an oral health education program a school at the settlement in Salleri, Solukhumbu. A second mobile dental unit purchased in 2017 helped extend the



program in Kathmandu, to orphanages in the Kathmandu valley and to the Tibetan settlement in the country district of Solukhumbu.

**Team Leader:** George Manos  
**Website:** <http://www.projectyeti.com/>  
**Where:** Kathmandu and Solhumbu, Nepal  
**Timing:** One week in April  
**Type of treatment:** general dental treatment in fixed clinic  
**Anticipated participation:** preventive, restorative and exodontia

## 6. PNG Dental School



Papua New Guinea has the most beautiful natural areas in the world and the people of PNG are friendly. Oral health needs are widespread and PNG has the highest incidence of oral cancer in the world. The Dental School in PNG was established in 1998 and has trained over 120 dentists with the assistance of visiting academics and dentists from Australia. Development at the PNG Dental School and the PNG Dental Association continues. Current efforts focus on mentoring some of the top graduates to develop public oral health and dentistry research projects which are critical in the planning of future oral health services in PNG. The successful ICD grant applicant will observe how dentistry is taught at the dental school and how treatment is delivered in the Dental District of the University of PNG. The volunteer young dentist will be expected to give a presentation on dental school education and practice in Australasia and comment what practices could be used in PNG.

**Team Leaders:** Mahmood Siddiqi and Len Crocombe  
**Where:** PNG Dental School, Port Moresby  
**Anticipated participation:** Observations and liaison with PNG dental students and Dental school dental clinical staff; give a presentation to PNG dental students on dental school education and practice in Australasia.

## 7. Timor Leste Dental Program



The majority of the 1.3 million inhabitants of Timor-Leste have no access to dental care. Twenty years after independence, the country still has very few dentists, who mostly practise in the capital city, and a handful of ill-equipped dental therapists who operate in rural areas. The Timor-Leste Dental Program is the largest and longest operating dental program in Timor-Leste. The program has three aims: to support and mentor Timorese dental clinicians through training, clinical supervision and equipment; to provide dental care to the Timorese people in remote and rural communities; and to facilitate oral health education for the Timorese people. The program operates a full-time fixed clinic and school dental service, as well as an outreach program. Five teams visit Timor-Leste annually for two weeks and work closely with Timorese clinicians, assistants and translators. The minimum time commitment required for volunteers is one week.

<b>Team Leaders:</b>	Blanche Tsetong, Lesley Leong, Henry Gilkes, Peter Shakes & Mary Tuituinnik
<b>Where:</b>	Maubara and multiple locations in western half of Timor-Leste
<b>Timing:</b>	April - October
<b>Type of treatment:</b>	general dental treatment, mostly outreach with portable units
<b>Anticipated participation:</b>	preventive, restorative and exodontia

## 8. Long Tan Dental Project, Vietnam



The Long Tan Dental Project initiated by Colin Twelftree in Vietnam has provided dental care and oral health education for the Long Tan community for over 20 years. The program operates out of the Australian Vietnam Volunteers Resource Group Dental Clinic in the village of Long Tan. Portable equipment is used for school and orphanage visits. Treatment is given by teams of dentists and dental assistants who visit regularly. Treatment is mainly provided to young children in the form of ART restorations; extractions for adults and aesthetic anterior fillings for adolescents are also offered where needed. The ICD grant will be used to purchase consumables and equipment for the program.

<b>Team Leader:</b>	Greg Miller
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<b>Where:</b>	schools and orphanages in Long Tan area
<b>Timing:</b>	alternate months starting from January
<b>Type of treatment:</b>	general dental treatment, mainly for children. ART restorations and some extractions. Airconditioned bus equipped with a dental unit, portable units in schools and orphanages and one fixed clinic.
<b>Anticipated participation:</b>	preventive, restorative and exodontia for children

## 9. Gudfala Tut Skul Program, Vanuatu



The Gudfala Tut Skul Program (GTSP) is a supervised toothbrushing program for kindergarten and grade 1 children attending primary schools in Port Vila, Luganville and a growing number of outer islands of Vanuatu. The program was one of the main recommendations arising from the 2017 National Oral Health Survey, which reported high prevalence of dental caries, bleeding gums, toothache, and low compliance with toothbrushing frequency with 40% of 5 to 7 year old children reporting “rarely” or “never brushed” their teeth. The program has grown from one school in 2018 to more than 50 schools in 2020, encompassing over 4,000 children on a daily basis. ICD also provided funding for translation of key documents, including teacher and classroom instructions and toothbrushing record booklets, into Bislama and French languages. The program is unique in that the toothpaste is coconut-oil based, manufactured in Vanuatu, and packaged in reusable 500ml dispensers for use in classrooms. A complementary program, the Gudfala Smile Nurse Training Program, has been initiated to help prevent early childhood caries (ECC) through general and maternal child health clinics staffed by trained nurse practitioners. The nurse training program will commence in 2023 and aims to train registered nurses and Bachelor of Nursing undergraduates to recognise ECC and apply anticipatory guidance, including caries risk assessment, parental education and application of fluoride varnish in children aged 18 months to 4 years.

<b>Team Leaders:</b>	Medical Sailing Ministries Inc. (Melbourne)
<b>GTSP:</b>	Dr Evatt Stephanie Ala (GTSP Coordinator)
<b>GSNT/clinical placement:</b>	Dr Jenny Tangis (Acting Head, Vila Central Hospital, Dental Department)
<b>Medical Outreach:</b>	Mr Richard Simeon
<b>Where:</b>	Vanuatu
<b>Timing:</b>	Ideally during school terms, and best between May to September when climate is generally most stable with comfortable day temperatures for visitors.
<b>Type of treatment:</b>	A key focus is on oral health prevention and treatment for patients of all ages.
<b>Anticipated participation:</b>	Candidates have the possibility of contributing to the ongoing monitoring of the GTSP and participation in health clinics to assist nurses with caries risk assessment and applications of fluoride varnish in toddlers. There are also opportunities to treat patients in Ministry of Health dental clinics and/or participate in medical outreach missions to outer islands.



## 10. Adelaide Community Outreach Dental Program



In 2011, following engagement and consultation with various groups and charities working within the homeless community of Adelaide, the Community Outreach Dental Program (CODP) was formed to address the oral health needs of local vulnerable individuals. Through numerous grants and ongoing support from the Adelaide dental community, the program has grown into a 2-chair dental clinic situated in Housing Choices SA's Light Square Common Ground facility that provides free dental care for vulnerable members of the local community – some of the most marginalised people who have difficulty accessing even the most basic dental care such as the homeless, refugee/asylum seekers, survivors of physical or emotional abuse or persons ineligible for public health care who are unable to afford essential dental care privately.

The Common Ground clinic continues to work with local charitable groups, with support from the University of Adelaide, Housing Choices SA and the SA branch of the ADA, providing a service to support individuals unable to access dental care from private or public systems. Final-year dental and hygiene students are mentored by volunteer dentists focusing on culturally and socially appropriate patient care and education in a respectful and supportive environment. Students are given the opportunity to establish a relationship with their patients that will encourage graduates who are enthusiastic about providing care for marginalised community members and a deeper understanding of their social and cultural diversity.

**Team Leaders:** Margie Steffens OAM and Harry Perkins

**Website:** <https://health.adelaide.edu.au/dentistry/community/community-outreach>

**Where:** Adelaide, South Australia

**Timing:** To be discussed with program leaders regarding timing and opportunities available to maximise best opportunities for all.

**Type of treatment:** General dental practice and emergency care, including preventative, education, restorative, exodontia and RCT.

**Anticipated participation:** Assist or observe dependant on registration, tutoring final year dental and hygiene student volunteers, dental clinical practice, community dental screenings, participation in research group meetings. An opportunity to see the scope and possibilities of volunteering in Australia and to recognise that sometimes we do not need to seek far to find a community needing advocacy and assistance.

## 11. Children's Health Aid Team (CHAT), Vietnam



The mission of Children's Health Aid Team is to provide dental services to the disadvantaged and needy children and their carers at orphanages, institutions and schools in Vietnam. The organisation was founded by Dr David Booth in 2005 when he became aware that basic medical and dental services were not available to a vast number of Vietnamese people.

CHAT fields volunteers with medical, dental and allied health backgrounds, as well as interpreters and general volunteers, to help run quarterly trips. Portable dental treatment units are taken to rural areas of Vietnam where the organisations feel the most impact can be made. Services are primarily aimed at children and range from dental health education, scaling, preventative and restorative treatment, stainless steel crowns, extractions and initial endodontic treatment. We believe prevention is better than cure and teaching children to look after their teeth from a young age will enable them to maintain healthy mouths and smiles for life.

**Team Leaders:** Jennifer Chan (President) and Aaron Wong (Vice President)

**Where:** Vietnam – travelling to work locations in South & Central Vietnam from Ho Chi Minh City

**Timing:** four trips per year (usually April, July, September and November). Each trip is usually one week.

**Type of treatment:** dental health education and general dental treatment mainly on children using mobile units/equipment

**Anticipated participation:** preventive, restorative & exodontia primarily treating children

## 12. Maluk Timor, Timor Leste





We at NGO Associação Maluk Timor (AMT) are thrilled to offer young dentists the opportunity to participate in our Projeto Nehan Saudavel (PNS) initiative. Our aim with PNS is to design a simple preventive program that can serve as a focal point for establishing training, health surveillance and collaboration among agencies. This approach builds on our experience providing dental treatment to hard-to-reach groups since 2018.



To expand our scope of services in schools, we have partnered with local NGOs in-country. Together, we are providing comprehensive dental treatment and preventive care to underserved populations. Through PNS, we seek to empower communities to take preventive actions for themselves and create lasting change in the quality of life of Timorese children. Our goal is to serve up to 1000 schoolchildren each year, providing them with primary oral rehabilitation where needed. Our project aligns with the ICD's mission to support young dentists in their endeavours to provide dental care to underserved populations.

**Team Leaders:** Flaviana da Silva, Jenifer Ximenes and Sanjay Mathew

**Where:** Dili, Likisa, Balibo, Timor-Leste

**Timing:** Activities can generally take place throughout the year when schools are open, but the timing of the activities will vary based on the season. Our preferred times for activities are between April and May, as well as between July and November.

**Type of treatment:** Basic preventative dental treatments

**Anticipated participation:** Candidates can participate in supporting development of health promotion activities, conducting clinical audits (provide feedback to improve on outcomes, cross infection control (observation practice and check listing), provide CPD to AMT dental team delivering dental treatments or contributing to project monitoring and maintenance. Candidates may have clinical restrictions, will address on a case by case basis.