

## YOUNG DENTISTS VOLUNTEER GRANT 2024

### 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.

### 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:** [Adelaide Community Outreach Dental Program](#)

**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.

## Cambodia, 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.

## Cambodia, M'Lop Tapang



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 is dependent on volunteer dentists to provide services. Volunteers are welcome to work any week of their choosing, they may work on their own assisted by Cambodian staff or with other volunteer dentists, therapists and assistants.

**Team Leader:** Petrina Bowden

**Where:** Sihanoukville, Cambodia

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

**Type of treatment:** general dental treatment in fixed clinic

**Anticipated participation:** preventive, restorative and exodontia for children

## Nepal, Project Yeti



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.

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

## Pacific Islands, Smiles for the Pacific



SFTP was formed in 2012 by a group of dentists from New Zealand with the aim of teaching training, upskilling and mentoring Pasifika health professionals to meet complex dental needs for countries in the South Pacific basin. Furthermore, SFTP provides vital equipment, instruments, materials and consumables to the islands. Our biggest asset is the volunteer dental professionals from New Zealand and Australia who are willing to share their knowledge and skills by teaching, training and treating cases to upskill the local dental practitioners. These volunteers include dental specialists, dentists, dental therapists, dental hygienists, dental technicians, dental assistants and non-dental professionals.

The SFTP facility serving as the program's treatment and training base is set up to Australia/NZ standards with modern equipment and a user-friendly layout at Lautoka Dental Hospital in Fiji. As part of our commitment to the region, we have now extended our services to many Pasifika countries via conferences and workshops both online and in person.

SFTP is an inclusive charitable organisation that prides itself on providing all our stakeholders with the best possible platform for seamless service delivery. The programs operate in collaboration with various governmental and non-governmental agencies.

All treatment provided is free of charge to patients, and all educational sessions are free for all local practitioners.

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| <b>Team Leader:</b>               | Abdul Aziz  |
| <b>Where:</b>                     | Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Niue, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Nauru |
| <b>Timing:</b>                    | Generally, any time of year, excluding November to March                          |
| <b>Type of treatment:</b>         | General and specialist dental treatment   |
| <b>Anticipated participation:</b> | preventive, restorative, endodontics and exodontia                                |

## Papua New Guinea Dental School



Papua New Guinea (PNG) has the most beautiful natural areas in the world and the people of PNG are friendly. Oral health needs are widespread. PNG has the highest incidence of oral cancer in the world. The Dental School in PNG was established in 1998 and has trained over 100 dentists largely through the efforts of visiting academics and dentists from Australia coordinated by Prof John McIntyre AM of the University of Adelaide. 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 health 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 Port Moresby Hospital Maxillofacial Unit and in the PNG Dental Service. The volunteer young dentist may also have a clinical placement in one of the provinces under the oversight of a senior dentist.



**Team Leaders:** Mahmood Siddiqi and Len Crocombe

**Where:** PNG Dental School, Port Moresby

**Anticipated participation:** observations and liaison with PNG dental students and local dentists; give a presentation to PNG dental students on dental school education and practice in Australia or New Zealand

## Solomon Islands Dental Health Program



**Team Leader:** David Goldsmith

**Where:** Dental Clinics at the National Referral Hospital, Honiara

**Timing:** June/July

**Type of treatment:** General Dentistry. The dental facilities at the National Hospital (which we installed in 2019), include 6 operatories to



form its first fledgling Dental Hospital where dental specialists can work. It serves a city of 85,000 and is the central base administering dental health services to a nation of 750,000. The Solomon Islands receive little outside dental support, so help of any kind, whether specialist or generalist would be welcomed.

**Anticipated participation:** The program covers most areas of public dental health, so there is plenty of scope for clinical and educational input. Some of the priority areas where advice would be welcomed include hands-on clinical demonstrations, dental materials, general dental practice management, advice on developing an IT facility such as ZOOM for continuing education, refining infection control procedures, and public health dentistry.

## Solomon Islands Rural Outreach Program



In the Solomon Islands, over 500,000 people live in rural areas, yet fewer than twenty local dentists are available to provide dental care. Additionally, this population is spread out over 300 islands with limited road infrastructure and public boat transport, as well as inadequate access to power and water.

The primary objective of our programme is threefold: to enhance the capacity of local government dental teams, extend the reach and scope of dental services in rural regions, and promote preventive strategies. These strategies include school and community oral health education, toothbrushing programmes, and the promotion of traditional local food and culture. Through data collection, we aim to provide insights that will inform the development of effective strategies for the future.

The East Makira school dental programme has been running since 2015, where we work with local youth and community members to deliver dental services in 6 rural schools and communities. We carry all necessary instruments and materials to each location by boat and trekking. Participants in the programme gain a genuine cultural experience, living within the community, exchanging stories, playing games with the children and enjoying meals prepared from the local gardens or the day's catch.

In 2023, a mobile school dental service programme in Guadalcanal Province was started using a dental truck donated by Dental Health Services Victoria; and volunteers joined the local dental team in their four-wheel drive outreach programme, paving the way for future volunteers to visit a different rural region.

The successful candidate will join the outreach teams to provide dental care in rural areas, refining and enhancing oral health programmes and collaborate with local dental teams, community leaders or nurses.

- Local team leaders:** Dr Ray Seleso and Dr Lenstar Hagatea
- Australian Team Leaders:** Som-Ling Leung and Raymond Khong
- Where:** Rural and Regional Solomon Islands (Makira Province and Guadalcanal Province)
- Timing:** May to October during local school terms (two weeks minimum)
- Type of treatment:** Silver Diamine Fluoride, ART restorations, some extractions, predominantly outreach work in rural areas.



## 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>	Henry Gilkes & 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>	We require volunteers to have at least two years post graduate experience. Experience with extractions is essential. Competence in preventive, restorative and general dentistry, also required. An interest in Oral surgery would be an added bonus.

## Tonga Periodontal Disease Management Program



Periodontal disease is prevalent in the Tongan community with patients ranging from 18 years onwards. Unfortunately, the lack of Periodontists in Tonga, has limited periodontal disease management to basic periodontal care and the disease is rampant. We are training the local dentists as part of in-service training to manage this disease. The training is at the Vaiola Hospital Dental Clinic in the capital, Nuku'alofa, on the island of Tongatapu.

There are about ten dentists in the main hospital with four dentists flown in from the outer island health stations for the training program. The training involves tutorials and understanding the pathophysiology of periodontal disease as well as its systemic interactions and management. The trainees are trained in patient education, periodontal assessment methods, formulating treatment plans, treatment and post-treatment follow-up reviews. The reviews are at customised intervals and includes supportive Periocare. The findings from this project will form the basis for translation of similar training to other developing countries. This program is supported by the International College of Dentists, Ministry of Health Tonga, DFAT-Australia, and James Cook University.



**Team Leader:** Mohammed Shorab

**Supporting Tonga Team:** Chief Dental Officer, Dr Sisilia Fifita FICD and Dr Naati Fakatava

**Advisory Team, James Cook University:** Dr Lars Henning, Dr Dileep Sharma FICD, Dr Joao Martins De Mello Neto, and Dr Daniel Lindsay.

**Where:** Dental Clinic, Vaiola Hospital, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

**Timing:** March, July, and November. Each visit is for a week and is dependent on weather conditions and directions by the Chief Dental Officer.

**Anticipated participation:** Assisting the Team Leader during the tutorials and clinical demonstrations. Assisting the trainees in collating records, ensuring that they are properly documented and complete. Assisting trainees and the supporting staff in the clinical learning process. The YDV will need registration with the Tonga Ministry of Health which is organised by the Team Leader and the Chief Dental Officer. Visa arrangements are also managed by the Chief Dental Officer.

## Tonga Dental Health Program



**Team Leader:**

David Goldsmith

**Where:**

Kingdom of Tonga

**Timing:**

September or October

**Type of treatment:**

The program covers all areas of public dental health, so the program offers

scope for clinical and educational input in many areas including specialty subjects. Tonga has good hospital and school treatment facilities.



**Anticipated participation:** We have had a close relationship with the Tonga Dental Department and the Tonga Ministry of Health since 1996 and Tonga has a very friendly workforce that is keen to learn. The program covers all areas of public dental health, so the program offers plenty of scope for clinical and educational input. Areas considered useful in this year's program include; Hands-on Oral Surgery, Basic Orthodontic training, Special Needs Dentistry, and Children's Dentistry – clinical work in schools (Kinder, Primary, and Secondary) and advice on preparing a training video or similar.

## Vanuatu, Gudfala Smile Program



The focus of MSM's commitment to assist the Ministry of Health (MOH) to improve the oral health of Ni-Vanuatu children has transitioned from a simple but effective supervised toothbrushing program, i.e., Gudfala Tut Skul Program (GTSP), covering 4-7-year-old children attending kindergarten and grade 1 primary school, to a series of complementary mini-programs "capturing" children at various stages in their development from birth to 5 years. There are two reasons.

Firstly, the observation that many children coming into GTSP already had dental caries and there was a need to intervene further "upstream". Secondly, the National Oral Health Policy (2019-2023) Review Committee held in August 2023, attended by MSM representatives, recommended to incorporate GTSP under the Health Promotion in Schools (HPS) Program with the aim of covering all government primary school children grades 1-6 and possibly years 7-8 secondary school. In



recognition of the international reputation achieved by GTSP over the past 5 years, the name Gudfala Tut will be preserved through the Gudfala Tut Health Promotion in Schools (GT-HPS) Program. During the transition phase MSM will maintain support for GT-HPS in grade 1 classes previously covered under GTSP for a period of 12 months. Back to the upstream intervention, MSM proposed introduction of the Gudfala Smile Program (GSP) to address early childhood caries in children aged birth to 5 years comprising several intervention phases as follows:



1. Gudfala Smile Nurse Training Program (GS-NTP). A 5-day training workshop (lecture and practical sessions) for registered nurses modelled with permission on the Northern Territory Healthy Smiles Program
2. Gudfala Smile Nurse Program (GS-NP). Prevention of ECC in children undertaken by GS nurses in Health Centre/MCH clinics through application of anticipatory guidance, caries risk assessment, parental education, and application of fluoride varnish in children aged 18 months to 5 years.
3. Gudfala Smile Smol Pikinini Program (GS-SP). Oral health education/supervised toothbrushing in Playgroups
4. Gudfala Smile ECCE Program (GS-ECCE) – supervised toothbrushing in Early Childhood Care Education Centres (“Kindergartens”)

**Team Leaders:** Medical Sailing Ministries Inc. (Melbourne)

**GSP/GT-HPS:** Dr Rhoda Bule, Acting Head, Integrated Oral Health Unit, Directorate of Public Health; Dr Evatt Stephanie Ala (GTSP Coordinator, WHO)

**Where:** Vanuatu

**Timing:** Ideally during school terms, and best between May to September when climate is generally most stable with comfortable day temperatures for visitors.

**Type of treatment:** A key focus is on oral health prevention.

**Anticipated participation:** Candidates have the possibility of contributing to the ongoing monitoring of the GSP and participation in health clinics to assist nurses with caries risk assessment and applications of fluoride varnish in toddlers. There may also be opportunities to treat patients in Ministry of Health dental clinics and/or participate in medical outreach missions to outer islands.

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



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.

## Vietnam, Long Tan Dental Program



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 children in the form of restorations; extractions for adults and aesthetic anterior fillings

for adolescents are also offered where needed.

<b>Team Leader:</b>	Greg Miller
<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