



## Collaborating to support stroke victims in Sri Lanka

**ABOVE:** Members of the Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington packing medical equipment at the Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment (RARE) facility, ready to be shipped to stroke units in Sri Lanka.

The Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington, Vic, has partnered with the Rotary Club of Colombo, Sri Lanka, the Australian Sri Lankan Association South Australia, Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment and Rotary Donations in Kind to outfit stroke units in nine hospitals in Sri Lanka.

**SRI LANKA** has a very high incidence of stroke yet just 74 dedicated stroke beds across nine hospitals in the whole country. Access

to a stroke unit is possible for about 14 per cent of sufferers – in high income countries it is 91 per cent. To address these alarming

statistics, a project was developed following a meeting between the Minister for Health, Past District Governor Senake Amerasinghe and Past District Governor Pubudu De Goysa from the Rotary Club of Colombo, President of the National Stroke Association Dr Harsha Gunasekara, and Peter Cribb of the Rotary Club of Flemington Kensington.

A detailed and extensive 'wish list' was compiled by Dr Gunasekara and his team and conveyed to Rotary Donations in Kind. As hospital beds were still in short supply following the COVID pandemic, Peter reached out to Rotary Australia Repurposing Equipment (RARE) for support.

With assistance from former MLA Craig Ondarchie, a connection was made with the Australian Sri