

Rotary project for a National Oral Health Hospital for the Solomon Islands. RAWCS project *29/2018-19

Rotary has been given the task of converting an empty building at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara into a fully functioning Dental Hospital. This is a large and important project which we are doing in stages, and which with full Rotary support, has potential to be extended into the main hospital itself and beyond.

1. An initial Needs Assessment and Project Evaluation was made in September 2017 on a visit to the National Referral Hospital (NRH) in Honiara by Dr David Goldsmith (RC Ballarat West), Gus Dominguez (RC Berwick) and Dr Felipe de Lemos (Vanuatu dentist)
2. A joint RAWCS project 29/2018-19 was registered between the Rotary Clubs of Berwick, Ballarat West and Honiara, and MOUs signed with the NRH executive in 2018.
3. Procurement (2018) and transportation of the necessary specialised equipment from DIK Adelaide and DIK Brisbane 2019 e.g. 9 dental chairs selected by dentist Rotarian Dr Dick Milner from RADH, and all the same models (important for future maintenance.)
4. April 2019 Visit to NRH by Dr David Goldsmith, and our technical lead, specialist dental equipment engineer Mr. Peter Copp, (a PHF with extensive experience in the Pacific Islands) resulted in 3 Initial chair installations. We agreed on detailed surgery designs and drew up plans for 6 surgeries, a Denture Lab. and a Sterilizing Room. Good working relationships have been established with Chief Dental Officer for the Solomon Islands, Dr Ellison Vane, Medical Superintendent Dr John Hue, Vivian Yu AusAID Finance Advisor to the Solomon Islands Ministry of Health and Medical Services, the NRH BioMed engineer Douglas, and the Rotary Club of Honiara International Director Tony Rayner
5. Our Fund raising for the Solomons is going well.

With Rotary, public and professional support our initial aim is \$50,000.

Pledges of funding so far have come from; \$10,000 RC Ballarat West, \$13,000 RC Berwick, \$5000 from RC Torquay, \$3000 from the Academy of Dentistry International, \$5000 international College of Dentists, \$3000 Rotary Foundation District Grant, plus a generous \$10,000 donation from Selina Knight at Metrology – (a Ballarat IT company) and \$486.25 anonymous.



Pictured in April 2019;

Peter Copp PHF installing a dental chair with help from NRH Staff and (L to R) Prosthodontist Dr. Charles Sulu, NRH Medical Superintendent Dr John Hue, Rotarian Dr David Goldsmith, ex-CDO Dr Loreen Oti and (the new CDO) Dr Ellison Vane at NRH at a Handover ceremony with one of the Rotary Chairs

6. Next stage now is the Logistics of getting our custom designed cabinetry. and donations of supplies and equipment to Honiara.
7. The cost of shipping will be shared pro rata with D9800 Rotary clubs for a 40-foot DIK container which will include a range of medical items for NRH, including, consumables, hospital beds and wheelchairs. The Solomon Is. MOH will pay wharfage charges and waive Customs duty
8. This Container will then be packed on August 13th and 15th at West Footscray DIK depot and will leave for the Melbourne docks on 21st August, then set sail on August 24th aboard ship MOROBE CHIEF N1927. ETA Honiara is September 19th.
9. A RAWCS volunteer work party is planned for October 19 to November 5 to complete the installations and set up the surgeries. This will include assembling the custom dental cabinetry flat packs, making service connections to the final installations of 6-8 dental chairs, stocking and furnishing 6 surgeries with supplies, and building and equipping a Sterilizing Room.
10. Ballarat West RAWCS volunteer project team provisional dates are ~October 22nd - November 5th Honiara Rotary Club have offered to help us find accommodation and transport options for our team. Currently we have 11 volunteers in the team
11. It is intended we will have the Solomon Islands dental department ready to move into the building and begin treating Public Patients in early November 2019.

Rotary will then have created, for the first time, a fully self-contained National Oral Health Hospital for the Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands dental department have now requested our help to also equip more new dental surgeries in the same building which are about to be vacated by the Diabetic department.

In addition, we plan to do a Needs Assessment of the current state of equipment and facilities at the hospital and to give recommendations for a potential expansion of Rotary support to the Solomon Islands medical facilities into the future

David Goldsmith

Rotary Club of Ballarat West
M/ 0488 688 700
E/ dgold@netconnect.com.au
12/08/2019