



2021

Annual Report

Taking Paediatrics Abroad Ltd

October 2021



Website: www.takingpaediatricsabroad.org.au

"There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they can grow up in peace." Kofi Annan

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Mission

Equitable healthcare for children globally.

Vision

Sharing expertise in paediatric care to prevent and control diseases, save lives and create a brighter future for children and young people in developing countries and Australia.

Our History

Taking Paediatrics Abroad Ltd was established in 2019 to facilitate the sharing of paediatric expertise in Australia and the Indo-Pacific. In low- and middle-income countries, the availability of quality healthcare is inversely proportional to the need of the population; there is a higher burden of diseases and significant resource challenges. Initial plans included:

- Short-term volunteering face-to-face
- Ongoing connection to enable further consultations / following visits
- Annual visits to share new knowledge
- Funded 'observerships' in Australia for key clinical skills training

The first international volunteering episode coincided with the onset of COVID-19-related travel restrictions. This resulted in the development of a telehealth project including:

- Telemedicine with paediatricians conducting virtual consultations for Australian Aboriginal children and their families in two remote NSW locations
- Telehealth connecting Australian paediatric subspecialists (doctors, nurses and allied health professionals) with paediatric colleagues in low- and middle-income countries in the Indo-Pacific region. Scheduled telehealth sessions enabled Australian paediatric experts to provide education and guidance on cases or topics requested by international colleagues. Countries included the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga, Kiribati, Samoa, Cambodia, Vietnam, Bangladesh and Mongolia.

About Us

Structure and Management

Taking Paediatrics Abroad Ltd is a charitable organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission with endorsement for charity tax concessions. The Australian Business Number is: 35 635 999 076.

Australian paediatric experts, the managing director, the Board Members, the project team and administrative support team contribute their time in a voluntary capacity.

Following initial discussions, paediatricians introduced by Taking Paediatrics Abroad work directly with Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Services in Australia.

International telehealth sessions follow an arranged schedule of Australian paediatric subspecialists. Discussion of cases from overseas colleagues ensures that country priorities are addressed with immediate relevance to the management of current paediatric patients. International colleagues remain case managers. Guidelines and educational resources are regularly shared.

Our People

Board members

Name	Position	Dates
Elizabeth Adsett	Chair	2019 - present
Peter Richards	Company Secretary & Treasurer	2019 - present
Lesley Mathews	Director	2019 - present
Jasper Garay	Director	2019 - present
Phoebe Williams	Director	2019 - present
Patsi Michalson	Director	2019 - present
Kathryn Currow	Managing Director	2019 - present

Advisory Group

Name	Position	Dates
A/Prof Sue Woolfenden	Advisor & Presenter	2019 - present
Dr James Weaver	Advisor	2019 - present
Sally Whitaker	Advisor	2019 - present
Dr Sue Phin	Advisor	2019 - present
Ruth Baker	Advisor	2019 - present
Anneka Parker	Author & Contributor	2019 - present

Volunteers

Name	Position	Duration
Dr Kathryn Currow	Founder, Managing Director	2018 - present
Brooke Boswell	Honorary Director Digital	2019 - present
Joanne Lillie	Honorary Director Communication	2019 - present
Kate Crawford	Administration Support	2021 - present
Peter Andersen	Project Support	2019 - present
Sarah Feyen	Project Support	2021 - present
Will Havellas	Project Support, Presenter	2021 - present
Dr Elodie Moreau	Junior Doctor Group Leader	2021 - present
Margaret Stichter	Administration Support	2021 - present

Contributing Experts

Taking Paediatrics Abroad gratefully acknowledges the outstanding support of paediatric colleagues who regularly share their expertise with paediatric colleagues in the Indo-Pacific region. They are from NSW, ACT, Qld and one from New Zealand. These include:

Type of Expert	Number
Paediatric Subspecialists	68
Nurse Specialists	8
Allied Health Paediatric Specialists	7

Testimonial from Prof Hiran Selvadurai: "I loved the meeting!! It was an honour to discuss these very sick children with such an outstanding and committed group of paediatricians. I learnt a great deal."

Our Donors

Taking Paediatrics Abroad gratefully acknowledges the support of:

- MSC Mission
- Private donors



Our supporters

We gratefully acknowledge the pro bono support of:

Name	Logo	Dates
HWL Ebsworth		2019 - present
Bongiorno		2019 - present

Publication:

Anneka Parker, Eap Tek Chheng, Titus Nasi, Thyna Orelly, George Aho, Sally Whitaker, James Weaver, Sue Phin, Ruth Baker, Susan Woolfenden, Kathryn Currow, June 2021, *Taking Paediatrics Abroad: Working with low- and middle-income countries in a global pandemic*, Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health

First published: 04 June 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpc.15598>

Managing Director Report

Taking Paediatrics Abroad (TPA) addresses inequities in the health of Australian Aboriginal Children and in low- and middle-income countries. TPA works to create a brighter future for children and young people through empowering clinicians who care for them by connecting these clinicians with subspecialist colleagues in Australia.

The Taking Paediatrics Abroad telehealth project arose as a modification of initial plans for face-to-face volunteering due to the COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions.

In Australia this led to virtual consultations by paediatricians for children and their families at Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Services.

International telehealth sessions began in May 2020 as high-level technical assistance to build human resource capacity in health to improve child health outcomes.

Overseas paediatric colleagues discuss their cases with Australian paediatric experts or select a topic that they would like discussed. This ensures that the priorities of other countries are addressed through the education and guidance that is provided and as experiences are shared. International colleagues remain the empowered case managers.

Outcomes have exceeded expectations resulting in intergenerational benefits; lives have been saved and health systems enhanced. Technology has enabled a broader reach than individual volunteers (whole country paediatric services). This is at very low cost, low risk and with minimal carbon footprint.

With deep gratitude, I acknowledge:

- Key colleagues overseas who actively drive the endeavours of Taking Paediatrics Abroad. They include: Dr Titus Nasi, Steve Lumasa, Dr Thyna Orelly, Dr Caleb Vangana, Dr Annette Garae, Dr George Aho, Dr Flora Lutui, Dr Tito Kamu, Dr Litara Esere, Prof Eap Tek Chheng, Dr Kao Sambath, Dr La Kimsong, Dr Nam Nguyen, Prof Md Sirajul Islam, Prof Mesbah Uddin Ahmed.
- The TPA Board, Advisory Group and volunteers
- The growing pool of Australian experts who so enthusiastically contribute their time and share knowledge and experience.

The international telehealth project positions Australians as caring global citizens and enhances the health and wellbeing of children and young people. It empowers international colleagues through sharing of expertise with an experienced colleague.

A culture of respect and reciprocity results in benefits to clinicians overseas and in Australia. Contributing Australian experts report a deepened sense of purpose, excellent learning opportunities and enrichment of their cultural awareness and a sense of humility when confronted by the diagnostic and management challenges of our international colleagues. They are continually inspired to support their efforts.

Ultimately children and young people are the real recipients both in Australia and internationally.

Objectives and Activities

In Australia: Taking Paediatrics Abroad has introduced paediatricians to conduct telemedicine consultations with children and their families in Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Services in NSW in Moree and Coomealla.

This consultation Health and Council and Community throughout



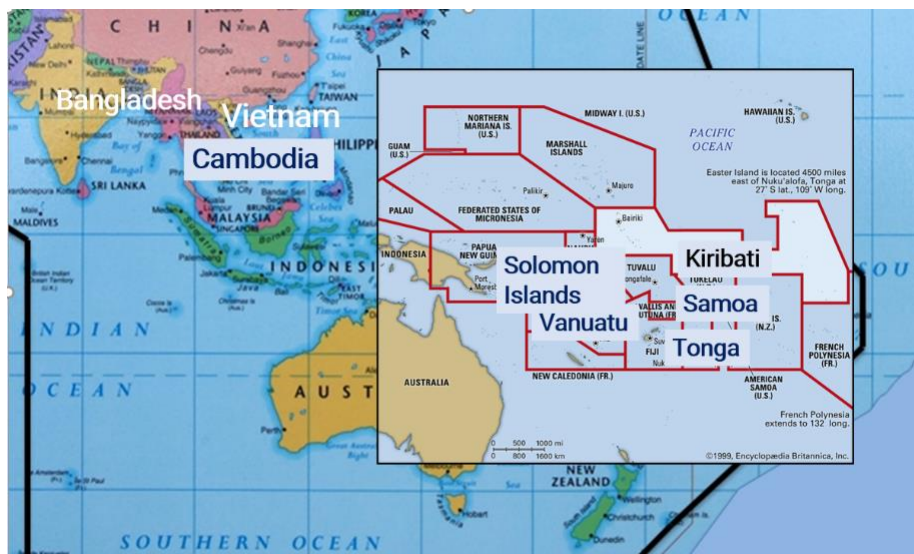
followed with the Aboriginal Medical Research Aboriginal Controlled Health Services NSW.

Internationally: Telehealth sessions are conducted weekly. These sessions have helped to address the isolation exacerbated by the pandemic and accompanied by increased isolation for clinicians. A summary of telehealth sessions is below. Due to overwhelming severity of COVID-19, telehealth sessions for Bangladesh and Vietnam were temporarily suspended in from June to September.

Countries in 2021

Summary of Sessions for Doctors, Nurses and Allied Health Professionals by 30th September.

Sessions include the full range of paediatrics from neonates to adolescents and cover all of the subspecialties. This table includes telehealth sessions since commencement of the telehealth project in May 2020.



Countries

Sessions

Solomon Islands + Tonga 2021 + Kiribati + Samoa since August 2021	76
Vanuatu + Tonga 2021 + Kiribati + Samoa since August 2021	60
Combined South Pacific	7
Cambodia	51
Bangladesh + Vietnam	9
TOTAL	229

Taking Paediatrics Abroad has given impetus to the following additional projects:

- Paediatric psychiatry training plans for Cambodian doctors through the RANZCP
- Biomedical engineering support in more Cambodian hospitals
- Project making bespoke mobility aids for disabled children in the Solomon Islands
- Application for grant funding to support newborn screening testing for hypothyroidism in Honiara, Solomon Islands
- Introductions for neonatal sepsis research
- Child protection training programs as requested in the South Pacific and Cambodia

Feedback

There are significant benefits to both contributing experts and to participating colleagues in each country. The impact of this project saves lives now and provides intergenerational benefits. See appendix 1.

The Future

Taking Paediatrics Abroad will continue its telehealth project into the future. As travel restrictions are eased, some face-to-face volunteering, especially for clinical skills training, is anticipated.

Financial Statements (excerpts)

TAKING PAEDIATRICS ABROAD LIMITED
ABN 35 635 999 076

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue		7,083	30,015
Other expenses		<u>(4,252)</u>	<u>(2,745)</u>
Profit before income tax		2,831	27,270
Income tax expense		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Profit for the year		<u><u>2,831</u></u>	<u><u>27,270</u></u>

TAKING PAEDIATRICS ABROAD LIMITED
ABN 35 635 999 076

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	<u>30,101</u>	<u>27,270</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>30,101</u>	<u>27,270</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>30,101</u></u>	<u><u>27,270</u></u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>30,101</u></u>	<u><u>27,270</u></u>
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		<u>30,101</u>	<u>27,270</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u><u>30,101</u></u>	<u><u>27,270</u></u>

Appendix 1 Feedback

Solomon Islands

Dr Titus Nasi: Head, Solomon Islands

“Our sincere appreciation on behalf of the paediatric department for this extremely helpful and excellent learning.”

Vanuatu

Dr Thyna Orelly, Head, Vanuatu

“Words cannot express how thankful I am for all the presentations. I am blessed to be in pediatric and your assistance is deeply appreciated. We are refining our guidelines with the support from you - through those teaching sessions. Tank yu bigwan.”

Dr George Aho, Head, Tonga



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 Cable: MINHEALTH

21st April 2021

Taking Paediatrics Abroad

This is something that was introduced to Tonga in early 2021

The idea of having paediatric specialists presenting pertinent topics or discussing interesting and challenging cases face to face, as in Zoom sessions on regular basis, was so refreshing and appealing. For isolated island countries like ours with a small population of 100,000 and limited resources, accessing specialist opinion is limited, challenging and potentially costly.

TPA boosts the ~~much needed~~ Continuing Professional Development that we, as local paediatricians have been longing for. Our patients and their families ultimately would be the beneficiaries as we try to stay abreast with the latest development in paediatrics.

In my view, this is a very ~~cost effective~~ form of Foreign aid and the impact is enormous as it will affect generations to come, at so many levels.

George Aho
 Head of Paediatrics
~~Vaiola Hospital~~
 Ministry of Health
 Tonga

Cambodia

Prof Eap Tek Chheng, Vice President, Cambodian Paediatric Association

“Taking Paediatrics Abroad teaching sessions have improved the knowledge of Cambodian pediatricians at National Pediatric Hospital, Angkor Hospital for Children and three main provincial hospitals of Cambodia.

After acquiring up to date knowledge from specialists in Australia through online training, our pediatricians have organized CME for physicians in provinces. TPA also improve the quality of pre-service medical training because medical students have participated in the training directly or indirectly through their mentors in the hospital.

Our pediatricians not only learn new skill from experts in Australia, but also have opportunities to develop their knowledge in areas of pediatric that are not yet available in Cambodia. With the support of sub-specialist consultation and guidance, our pediatricians are able to manage difficult cases confidently and reduce patient’s suffering on time.

TPA training have changed the way of medical practice, improved the quality of health care as well as patient safety and reduced child mortality rate, especially at the National Pediatric Hospital that receives patients from everywhere throughout the country.

TPA has been significantly contributing to the improvement of child health in Cambodia.”

Sydney

Prof Hiran Selvadurai, Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network

“I loved the meeting!! It was an honour to discuss these very sick children with such an outstanding & committed group of paediatricians. I learnt a great deal.”