

VANUATU.

17.7500° S, 168.3000° E
POPULATION: 245,619 (2011)

COORDINATOR: MR IAN HOLTEN.

To date, Interplast has delivered 25 program activities in Vanuatu, with the first conducted in 1985. 1232 patients have been consulted and 766 surgical procedures performed. Since the instigation of the AusAID Pacific Islands Project (PIP) in 1995, program funding has primarily been received via this project, with some activities funded through Rotary in recent years. In addition to activities delivered at Port Vila Central Hospital, teams have also travelled to the outer Islands of Santo and Tanna. While the need for access to services is great, these visits have been hampered by the travel distance and limited physical hospital resources which restrict the types of surgery that can be safely undertaken.

This year, Interplast delivered one surgical service program activity in Vanuatu. Vanuatu remains one of the more service-oriented programs in the Pacific due to the limitation of available personnel to undertake training. Surgeons are kept extremely busy with general surgery cases and cases requiring specialist treatment, including plastic and reconstructive cases, are often postponed until

a visiting team such as Interplast arrives. However, visiting Interplast teams to Vanuatu in recent years have noticed a significant improvement in the quality of staff and services at Port Vila Hospital.

During the 2012 Interplast program activity, 27 life-changing surgical procedures were undertaken and 37 patients were consulted by the Interplast team in Vila. Dr Samuel Kemuel, identified to become Vanuatu's general surgery trainee with a sub-speciality in plastic surgery, also participated in the Interplast Pacific Islands Training Project workshop in Suva in Fiji. During Interplast's visit to Vila, local medical personnel, including nurses and anaesthetists, received training and mentoring from the Interplast team.

PROGRAM PROFILE.

Surgical Activity	Surgeons	Anaesthetists	Nurses	Procedures	Consultations
Port Vila April 2012	Ian Holten Mark Duncan-Smith	John Oswald	Sue McMillan Tanya Karal Deanne O'Connor	27	37