

### ABOUT US

Interplast Australia & New Zealand (Interplast) provides life-changing surgery and health professional training in 17 countries across the Asia Pacific region, made possible by our volunteer plastic and reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and allied health professionals.

We do this in partnership with local organisations, including hospitals, universities and local Non-Government Organisations (NGOs). Our purpose is to 'repair bodies and rebuild lives' and we do this by providing surgical services to those who could not otherwise afford or access these, and through building the capacity of local medical systems through our training and mentoring programs.

Interplast is an accredited non-government organisation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), registered by the Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission (ACNC) and is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

Interplast was initially established in 1983 by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in partnership with Rotary. Interplast is a company limited by guarantee.

#### **Our vision**

People in developing countries across the Asia Pacific region have timely access to high quality surgical, medical and allied health services.

#### **Our mission**

To enhance people's health and wellbeing by enabling access to life-changing reconstructive surgery and related medical services.

#### **Our purpose**

Repairing bodies, rebuilding lives.

#### **Our values**

We respect the values, cultures and perspective of the countries and people with whom we work.

In all our endeavours, Interplast remains independent of any political or religious affiliations.

We value and harness the support, input and contributions of our volunteers, donors, partners and staff.

#### **Our philosophy**

Interplast delivers and enables surgical and related medical services of the highest standards where patient welfare is always of paramount concern.

Interplast is collaborative in its approach, building partnerships and fostering strategic alliances.

Interplast's Development Philosophy is underpinned by the fundamental principle that solutions, changes and impact are determined by local needs and should be sustainable and enduring.

Measuring and understanding the impact of Interplast initiatives is critical to all aspects of our strategy. Accordingly, we embrace transparency, evaluation and accountability in all Interplast's undertakings.

Interplast responds to needs or opportunities as they arise and as its resources allow. In doing so, Interplast directs its resources and expertise in areas where it can achieve the greatest impact, ideally to those experiencing the greatest disadvantage.







Interplast Australia & New Zealand is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct.



The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons established Interplast with Rotarians and the Fellows remain active supporters.



2020-21:

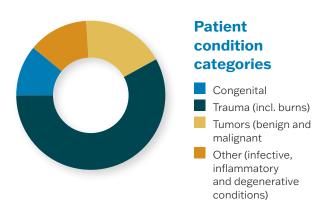
### IMPACT AT A GLANGE



### **Training opportunities** NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS REACHED THROUGH WEBINARS AND ONLINE SESSIONS (individuals and groups) **Number of volunteers**

#### **Patients**

Surgical patients supported remotely	67
Male	42
Female	25
Fiji	44
PNG	7
Nepal	16



### Online group training and mentoring

NUMBER OF SESSIONS

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

NUMBER OF GROUP TRAINING AND MENTORING HOURS DELIVERED



#### Participants

Surgeons Anaesthetists

Nurses Allied Health

Other (GPs, medical students, paramedicine, hospital

administrators)

### **Webinars**

NUMBER OF WEBINARS

NUMBER OF WEBINAR PARTICIPANTS

NUMBER OF WEBINAR HOURS DELIVERED



### Participants

Surgeons

Anaesthetists

Nurses

Allied Health

Other (GPs, medical students, paramedicine, hospital administrators)

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In presenting my first report as President of Interplast Australia & New Zealand, I cannot help but reflect on how far we have come as an organisation. Established in 1983 through the vision and commitment of Rotarians working alongside the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, few would have considered the significant impact Interplast would have across the Asia Pacific region.

If the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 have highlighted anything, it's an increased awareness of the severe inequality in healthcare across the world. Although disease and injury don't discriminate, the impacts of such conditions are felt hardest in low-income settings.

Globally, five billion people are without access to safe, affordable surgical and anaesthesia care. It is estimated an additional 143 million surgical procedures are needed each year to save lives and prevent disability. These numbers will only grow as COVID-19 continues to strain health systems across the world.

For Interplast, our ongoing commitment to developing a sustainable surgical workforce, together with our work to strengthen health systems across the Asia Pacific region are more important than ever.

I congratulate everyone involved in the delivery of our mission. We have worked differently, worked harder, and worked in ways we would never have imagined in providing essential care. The achievements highlighted throughout this report speak for themselves, and I urge every person involved to be rightly proud of the positive outcomes delivered by Interplast this past year.

As an organisation we often consider the strength of our partnerships as a vital pillar to our work. We work only through invitation. We tailor our support to local need. We build lasting collegiate relationships and friendships over a long period, and we passionately advocate for local leadership and solutions. The past year has shown just how essential these relationships are to the delivery of exceptional outcomes. At a time when Interplast was unable to travel and deliver our traditional programs, the strength of our partnerships meant that we were trusted and encouraged to deliver differently. This response has been incredibly well received and Interplast has continued to positively change futures.

To every volunteer, partner, donor, supporter and staff member, thank you for your continued belief in our work. Through you, Interplast has delivered life-changing results. On behalf of the entire Interplast Board I acknowledge your commitment. Our work is only made possible through your involvement.

As we continue to focus on supporting our partners throughout the region, Interplast was pleased to commence work on a new strategic plan in 2020-21 that will build upon our significant history and look to the future with new enthusiasm and a renewed commitment. As always, our priority is ensuring exceptional patient care is delivered by building a sustainable workforce, improving clinical institutions, and supporting systemic change on a larger scale.

The development of the plan and a strong commitment to further increase our engagement with partners, donors and supporters will ensure Interplast continues to deliver exceptional outcomes for years to come. In a post pandemic world, the work of Interplast will be more essential than ever.

In concluding, I wish to thank my fellow Directors for their support, encouragement, and dedication throughout the 2020-21 financial year. As Interplast navigated the impacts of COVID-19, they continuously stepped up and showed their commitment to good governance and effective leadership of the organisation. Working alongside Chief Executive Officer, Cameron Glover, and the operational team who ably responded to every challenge they encountered, the past year was one that all can be immensely proud of.

Interplast remains strong and we look forward to many positive years ahead.

M. Meglyun

Michael McGlynn
President



### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

During the past year, as COVID-19 continued to negatively impact the world in which we live, the skills, care, and compassion that Interplast is known for have been more essential than ever. For almost 40 years we have been helping to transform the lives of people who require life-changing care across the Asia Pacific region. In 2020-21, our methods of working changed, but our commitment to timely, accessible, safe care did not.

The last year was one that didn't involve overseas travel by Interplast's highly skilled teams of medical volunteers. Travel bans arising from the continued focus on reducing the spread of COVID-19, together with health systems both locally and internationally needing to focus on pandemic responses, prevented Interplast from delivering our traditional programs. Despite this, the year was one that highlighted Interplast's adaptability in responding to a changing world.

Traditionally Interplast works in 17 developing nations across the region, however, with the growth in technology and access to services such as telehealth and on-demand clinical education, Interplast expanded our reach to those in greatest need. In 2020-21, Interplast supported medical professionals in over 30 countries.

Interplast's clinical resources and education were accessed by more than 2,500 clinicians. These individuals will go on to treat large numbers of patients in their countries, and in time, train other clinicians in the skills and techniques acquired through their involvement with Interplast. The clinical education developed by Interplast during the year remains in high demand and will continue to be part of Interplast's support to our partners into the future.

In addition to the development and distribution of educational materials, Interplast volunteers provided significant hours of 1:1 mentoring and group facilitation. This important practice helps shape the professional understanding and development of essential clinical skills, and in turn leads to better patient outcomes.

Even without international travel, through the commitment of our volunteers, Interplast was able to directly support 67 patients with their care. Although a substantially smaller number than we traditionally provide, for these individuals and their families the impact is life changing.

None of Interplast's work, whether locally or internationally, would be possible without an exceptional team of volunteers who give freely of their time and talent. This year as they battled their own challenges in Australian and New Zealand health settings, so many continued to demonstrate their commitment to our work across the region. I wish to acknowledge the enormous contribution of every Interplast

volunteer and thank them for their continued belief that every person should have access to essential care, no matter where they live. It is only through our extensive volunteer network that Interplast can repair bodies & rebuild lives.

I also wish to acknowledge the volunteers who support our work in non-clinical roles. For our Board and committees, the past year has been one of the most challenging to navigate, yet one of the most significant to date. Through their continued leadership and stewardship, Interplast remained relevant and responsive and in a strong position to build upon our positive legacy well into the future.

I want to acknowledge and thank the Interplast staff. Although small in number, they are passionate, dynamic and visionary. Public health orders meant much of the year was spent working remotely from each other, yet through every challenge and emerging need, the team came together and continuously raised the bar to support both partners and patients in countries throughout the region.

Finally, my greatest acknowledgement to Interplast's donors and supporters. During times of great uncertainty, you continued to demonstrate your commitment to provide lifechanging care to those in need. The results highlighted in the following pages belong as much to you as they do to those of us who facilitate this work. Thank you.

As we present this report, COVID-19 continues to impact the world around us. While we don't know all the challenges that lie ahead, we do know that Interplast is ready, willing and able to respond as required. Just as we have done in times past,

today, tomorrow and into the future, we will repair bodies and rebuild lives.

Cameron Glover
Chief Executive Officer



2020-21:

### SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVENENTS

**Pictured:** Using the power of technology as a teaching tool has transformed how Interplast can deliver life-changing care. A surgeon refreshes their specialist knowledge prior to performing a complex case in the Solomon Islands.



Despite the many current challenges in Australia and our partner countries, and across the globe, we're incredibly proud of the work we do and what we've been able to achieve. In the 2020-21 financial year, Interplast:

- Delivered a high quality, interactive online education program including 37 livestream webinars with live Q&A sessions. Topics covered a range of clinical areas including plastic surgery, anaesthetics, nursing and allied health. Close to 2,500 participants from over 30 countries participated, which equated to over 90,000 hours of education provided.
- Supported overseas partner clinicians to continue delivering much needed clinical services through provision of clinical equipment and supplies, and technical advice and guidance from our highly skilled volunteers.
- Completed four in-depth evaluations of our programs across South and South East Asia.
- Partnered with Interburns to develop and pilot
   a digital assessment tool to support quality
   improvement of burns units within hospitals
   across developing countries in the Asia Pacific and
   further afield.
- Supported local partners to deliver crucial education and awareness raising work to improve the prevention and early treatment of burns injury.
- Undertook a first-of-its-kind research project to look at burn's injury and its treatment in Mongolia.
- Supported partners in Bangladesh to update and improve the delivery of burns education.
- Facilitated and supported the continued 1:1
  mentoring of a number of overseas clinicians
  through pairing with Interplast's experienced and
  skilled clinical volunteers.
- Undertook a comprehensive contextual analysis
  of gender equality and disability inclusion across
  a number of Interplast's local partners and
  programs.
- Developed and distributed clinical instructional education assets (videos and modules) to partners across the Asia Pacific to enhance skills and support continued professional development.
- Supported partner hospitals to improve local capacity and infrastructure related to specialised plastic surgical service areas, including the development of new sub-specialties and associated facilities such as skin banking.





### OVERVIEW

At Interplast, we focus on four complementary areas of program work: surgical programs, training, planning and evaluation and strengthening systems. The impact of COVID-19, and subsequent travel restrictions, has changed the way Interplast delivers programs, but we continue to support our partners through these complementary program areas.

As always, Interplast continues our commitment to providing life-changing access to surgery and allied health to people in the Asia Pacific region who would not otherwise be able to receive it.

### **Surgical**

Surgical programs focus primarily on treating patients, with some training built into the program through mentoring and/or lectures. Prior to the emergence of COVID-19, surgical programs were delivered within our partner countries by experienced Interplast volunteers. In 2020-21, Interplast was able to support the delivery of patient surgeries through the provision of funding, equipment and specialised health advice.

#### **Training**

These are programs that have a primary focus on training, from microsurgery to nursing and allied health (such as physiotherapy and hand therapy). This can involve larger programs or one-on-one mentoring. Following the

declaration of a global pandemic, training was converted to digital and on-demand content, delivered through the power of technology and remote learning.

#### **Planning and evaluation**

These programs usually involve a combination of Interplast program staff and health care volunteers working with partner countries to assess a situation to plan for new programs, or to monitor and evaluate the impact and effectiveness of existing programs.

### **Systems strengthening**

These programs involve working with our local partners to improve their systems, processes and resources to enhance patient care and health outcomes.



# SURGERY (AND OTHER PATIENT CLINICAL GARE)

Since 1983, plastic and reconstructive surgery has been at the heart of Interplast's mission to repair bodies and rebuild lives across the Asia Pacific region. Recognising that millions of people in developing countries across the Asia Pacific region are living with treatable conditions and disability, or in many cases dying, due to lack of access or affordability, Interplast provides life-changing access to reconstructive surgery and post-surgery rehabilitation. Our work can make a significant difference in patient outcomes and decrease the years of life lost due to a treatable physical impairment.

While the impacts of COVID-19 have slowed, and in many cases, halted the delivery of essential clinical care in our partner countries, the need for these services is greater than ever. Children continue to be born with congenital conditions requiring corrective surgery, and people of all ages continue to acquire traumatic injuries, or develop debilitating tumours, which need urgent treatment. The unmet needs of these patients continue to grow across the region.

While Interplast was unable to mobilise surgical teams from Australia and New Zealand to visit partner countries and deliver programs of in-country

treatment over the last twelve months, we have continued to support and guide our local partner clinicians to provide much-needed treatment to patients requiring plastic and reconstructive surgery related clinical services.

Our work in this program area has included providing essential case advice and remote mentoring to local surgeons and therapists, sending much-needed clinical equipment and supplies so that surgeries can continue, and providing financial support so that the most vulnerable of patients could continue to be treated.



### FIJI: REMOTE MENTORING SUPPORTS CRITICAL CARE IN LABASA

Interplast has been visiting the Labasa General Hospital on Fiji's 'second island' of Vanua Levu almost annually since 1984, delivering close to 40 visits in that time. Our programs have focused on clinical service programs to address patient need and provided training to the local general surgeons and surgical registrars based there.

"I participate in the online education because it is one of the few ways to remain connected to our pacific neighbours, during this difficult time. The online education sessions with Labasa Fiji are structured as problem-based case presentations and so the sessions are important for their patients' ongoing management."

David Ying

"I love teaching the Fijians. Their enthusiasm to help others and to learn is infectious. They work uncomplainingly in difficult and resource constrained circumstances. I'd like to think that the real-time advice we are able to give them about challenging clinical cases makes a direct and positive impact on patient outcomes."

Anand Ramakrishnan

In recent years, Interplast volunteer plastic surgeons Dr David Ying and Dr Anand Ramakrishnan have led the teams that visit Labasa. Dr Ying has been visiting Labasa since 2011 and Dr Ramakrishnan since 2014. Both surgeons have developed strong relationships with the local hospital staff and the community and have built excellent mentor relationships with the surgeons and surgical trainees.

The history and established relationships created an excellent foundation for Interplast to set up a regular remote clinical case discussion group between the Interplast surgeons and the local team during 2020-21. Either Dr Ying or Dr Ramakrishnan have run a monthly session with the local team, who present several complex local cases that require advice and support. The group discuss various treatment options and a plan is put in place for the local surgeons to deliver this treatment to the patients.

In the past twelve months, Interplast delivered fifteen of these sessions, with an average of 3-4 local surgeons presenting anywhere between two and six cases per session. Through these sessions forty-four Fijian patients received treatment for complex surgical conditions, with advice and guidance from experienced Australian surgeons supporting the local surgeon's skills. The types of conditions treated included severe burns injuries, injuries from trauma including bush knife injuries, serious motor vehicle accidents, removal and reconstruction of tumours, and congenital conditions in young children.

"Following an almost four-decade partnership between Interplast and Fiji, the achievements have been exceptional. With the relationships developed by the pre-covid era in-country visits, the development of a virtual platform has been an ingenious and necessary alternative to continue to connect with patients. Zoom sessions discuss real-life clinical cases and our challenges in patient care, and treatment can then be carried out in the best interests of patients. We are looking forward to a continued future with Interplast and are confident that we can continue to serve our community with a group like Interplast supporting us".

Dr Maloni Bulanauca, General Surgeon and Head of Surgery, Labasa General Hospital

### NEPAL: INDEPENDENT MICROSURGERY PROGRAM BENEFITS PATIENTS AND CLINICIANS



A Nepali man who received complex microsurgery thanks to Interplast support, to repair significant burn contractures on his face resulting from an acid burn injury.

Kirtipur Hospital's Independent Microsurgery Case program not only helps patients who would be unable to seek treatment, it also supports local plastic and reconstructive surgeons to maintain their skills in microsurgery. With support from Interplast, Kirtipur Hospital has 10 plastic surgeons who are competent and confident in delivering microsurgery. Interplast's Country Coordinator for Nepal works with local counter-parts providing remote advice and mentoring on cases throughout the surgical and post-operative stages.

During the 2020-21 financial year, six plastic surgeons, two hand surgeons and five plastic surgery residents participated in seven complex microsurgical cases, in addition to four anaesthetists and ten nurses. The program not only supports surgeons to maintain technical skills in between Interplast volunteer visits, it also supports anaesthetists and nurses to maintain and improve their skills resulting in positive outcomes for patients. The local surgeons are extremely proud of their 100% success rate for all of the patients who have been treated in this program.

Dr Bishal Karki, Plastic Surgeon at Kirtipur Hospital, shared his thoughts on the program:

"All of the patients who receive support under the Independent Microsurgery Cases experience financial challenges. Patients come to us very late only after traveling to many other hospitals. During this journey, they have already spent almost all their money and come to us helpless. Interplast is supporting such patients for microsurgery.

Another challenge for us is the limited instruments for microsurgery and when they break or don't work, we don't have the next instruments available to replace them.

Often these aren't even available in Nepal. Many of us are now confident to do routine microsurgery, but we need to continue to develop our infrastructure".

Interplast has been able to support Kirtipur Hospital in purchasing essential Microsurgery Instruments so the team can continue performing microsurgery on patients in need.

### PROVIDING ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES ACROSS THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

Adapting to these unprecedented times has been essential in ensuring that Interplast continues to support muchneeded treatment of patients. Across our partner hospitals in the Asia Pacific region, we've provided clinical equipment and supplies which would not otherwise be available due to temporary local shortages, reallocation of local procurement funding to meet COVID-19 needs, or where specialist surgical instruments or other equipment would usually only be available when visiting teams from Interplast brought them in-country.

#### Over the last twelve months:

- Interplast provided an updated kit of microsurgery instruments for use at the Kirtipur Hospital in Nepal. Successful microsurgery is very much dependent on quality, well maintained instruments, and this new instrument set enables the team at Kirtipur to improve outcomes for their patients.
- In Bhutan, Interplast was able to support the
  continuation of outreach cleft lip and palate surgery
  into the regional provinces, by providing specialised
  sutures and other surgical supplies not available
  locally. These supplies were sent directly to local
  ENT surgeon Dr Karma Tobgyel, who was able
  to use them to repair the cleft lips of Bhutanese
  babies during an outreach visit in April 2021.
- Interplast was also able to support a shipment of special cleft feeding bottles to partners in **Thimphu**, **Bhutan**, where they have been able to distribute these to the parents of babies with cleft lips and palates to assist in improving their feeding while they await surgery, and during their treatment.
- In PNG, clinicians within the Physiotherapy department at the Modilon General Hospital in Madang have been able to provide much-needed treatment to patients with significant injuries,



Specialist microsurgery instruments, donated to the Kirtipur Hospital in Nepal.

including from burns and hand trauma, thanks to therapy equipment and supplies sent from Interplast. In conjunction with TSL Laboratories in Melbourne, patients with significant burns injuries were able to be remotely measured and fitted for pressure garments, which have made a substantial contribution to their recovery. Likewise, patients with tendon and nerve injuries to their hands, causing serious, debilitating injuries, were able to have the required postoperative rehabilitation support thanks to splinting and other equipment provided. This equipment is complemented by ongoing mentoring and support from Interplast volunteer Hand Therapist Penny McMahon, who has a long-standing relationship with the therapists in Madang, following many years of delivering faceto-face training programs there.



### TRANNE & WENTORNE

Building capacity in our partner countries across the Asia Pacific region is a core focus for Interplast. We further the development of sustainable health systems in the communities where we work by supporting and facilitating local medical professionals to build their clinical and non-clinical skills and their confidence to better carry out their work. While traditionally Interplast has delivered this capacity building work through in-country training and mentoring, or by supporting health professionals to undertake training in Australia, New Zealand or other countries in the region, the continued challenges of COVID-19 through the last twelve months have required ongoing adaptations.

As noted in the last Annual Report, no one could have anticipated the challenges that would face the world over the 2019-20 financial year. Nor did we anticipate that these challenges would continue into the following year, and possibly for many years to come. The significant changes Interplast made to our programming early in 2020 have established the basis to continue delivering crucial training opportunities to local partners throughout the last year. An unexpected and very welcome outcome of this change is that Interplast has been able to expand the reach of our training programs to additional countries, and within partner countries, to new hospitals and health professionals.

Our training and mentoring activities continue to be diverse, specialised and responsive to the particular needs of our local partners. In this past twelve months, this has included delivery of regular live-stream webinars (across a range of clinical professions and topics), development and distribution of clinical instructional training videos and education modules and small group, hospital-based education sessions. We have provided 1:1 mentoring sessions with Interplast volunteers, case discussion sessions, and supported access to professional journals and memberships relevant to specific clinical areas. Critically, where possible, we continue to support local partners to continue delivering training programs in-country.

### ONLINE INNOVATION: BUILDING A CULTURE OF SUPPORT AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

"The online education program was extremely valuable and enabled us to reach many more nurses than otherwise possible. For example, I have gone from presenting a lecture to 10-12 staff nurses in Vanuatu, to a broad range of nurses from multiple countries. As much as in-country training is the core of what we do, the online webinar provided so much more scope for those health professionals that may otherwise have missed out"

#### - Interplast Volunteer Nurse

"The webinars demonstrated that overseas healthcare workers are hungry for education - they ask great questions and were very engaged"

- Interplast Volunteer Surgeon

"We appreciate the assistance from Interplast in providing online training sessions especially when we practice in isolated and limited resources islands like Tokelau. These sessions were also shared with our Nurses through our weekly CMEs and I encouraged and share with them the link to join on the online sessions"

- Nurse, Tokelau

"The online education program is a great way of enriching ourselves as a future plastic surgeon. Thank you Interplast for the initiative"

- Plastic Surgeon, Bangladesh

"With COVID-19 causing restriction in travelling. I found that these online webinar sessions is one way to keep track of the current management of many medical cases. And with the busy schedule from work as well, its good to have webinar sessions after work so i can update my skills on international level, even without the resources, the Interplast team can recommend the next best thing so we can provide the best quality care for our patients"

- Surgical Registrar, Samoa

"The webinars help me as a clinician to improve my clinical decision making as well as refreshing me on topics I forgot from my college years"

- Physiotherapist, Philippines

#### **Webinars**

Between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021, Interplast, in conjunction with its experienced and skilled clinical volunteers, delivered 37 separate live-stream webinars to audiences across the Asia Pacific region. Webinars were produced and hosted by Praxhub, a Melbourne-based health education company, with whom Interplast partners in the delivery of much of its online education content. These webinars covered a range of clinical topics, falling within six clinical streams:

- Principles of Plastic Surgery
- Reconstructive Plastic Surgery
- Plastic Surgery Nursing
- Perioperative Nursing
- Rehabilitation and Allied Health
- Anaesthesia, ICU and Pain Management

Each webinar involved an interactive presentation delivered by one of Interplast's clinical volunteers on a specific topic area, followed by a live question & answer session. All webinars were recorded, and then made available on Interplast's Praxhub platform as an on-demand video, available for people to view in their own time.

Across 2020-21 these webinars saw:

- Clinicians from 40 countries join us, reaching far beyond Interplast's traditional geographic and clinical scope.
- Ninety-six hours of live education delivered, with 2,884 instances of clinicians participating (instances of participation includes some repeat attendees). In addition to those participating in the livestream webinars, the on-demand recordings were accessed over 5,600 times.

A review at the end of the first 12 months highlighted that local partners take significant benefit from being able to participate in these sessions, noting that for many of them, it is the only accessible, high quality ongoing professional development that they are able to access at this time.



### 1:1 Mentoring

Over the last twelve months, Interplast has provided much needed, targeted mentoring support to a number of individuals including in PNG, Fiji, Bhutan and the Solomon Islands. This support has ranged in frequency and type, depending on the needs of local partners and their availability amidst their busy clinical workload.

- In PNG a small number of sessions were held for local therapists, and Interplast volunteer Hand Therapist Penny McMahon stays in regular contact with the PNG physios to provide guidance and support.
- Also in PNG, Interplast volunteer Surgeons, including Dr Sid Karanth, have provided support establishing the new plastic surgery trainee in his position.
- In Bhutan, Interplast volunteer Plastic Surgeon, Dr Tim Proudman, has continued to deliver regular sessions for Bhutanese plastic surgery trainee Dr Sonam Jamtsho as part of his formal training, with 20 sessions delivered across the year.
- In the Solomon Islands, Dr Scott Siota is supported by Interplast volunteer Surgeons Dr Zac Moaveni and Dr Kirk Williams III.
- In Fiji, Interplast volunteer Physiotherapist, Jenny Ball, is in regular communication with Fijian Physiotherapist, Akisi Dovibua, to provide guidance and mentoring on specific cases and her clinical practice more broadly.

"I continue to consult remotely with Dr Zac and Dr Kirk (Interplast volunteer surgical mentors) for their opinion on management of cases. This means I'm able to do some of the cases independently while Interplast isn't able to visit."

- Dr Scott Siota, Solomon Islands

"Having access to Penny McMahon as my mentor, plus access to the American Society of Hand Therapy journal (thanks to Interplast) means that when in doubt about something, I can see what others have researched and said about it. It broadens my perspective on a topic and helps me to formulate my own opinion using the evidence presented, as well as my own situation and setting. I'm also able to access articles on surgery, to better understand the surgeon's perspective."

- Cathy Pius, Physiotherapist, PNG.

"COVID restrictions have created obvious challenges in delivering much needed specialist surgical support to our wonderful Solomon Island cousins. But the silver lining has been the ability to remotely support our surgical colleagues in Solomon Islands with specific discussion and advice on the cases they are having to manage. It's been great to see Dr Scott grow in confidence and ability in managing cases himself that would have normally waited for the annual Interplast team visit to help with."

- Dr Zac Moaveni, Plastic Surgeon, New Zealand



### **Group Mentoring**

Building on long-standing professional relationships between Interplast volunteer clinicians and our overseas partners, Interplast has continued to deliver specific, targeted group and 1:1 mentoring sessions.

- In the second half of 2020, Interplast delivered a series of seven 1-2 hour online sessions for both the junior and senior plastic surgery trainees at the Yangon General Hospital. These sessions included interactive presentations from our volunteers, presentations from local trainees and case discussions.
- In the Pacific, a series of sessions were delivered for general surgeons working across the Pacific Islands, who undertake various plastic surgery related cases in their general surgical practice, focused on topic areas including lower and upper limb reconstruction and perforator flaps.
- Small group mentoring sessions have also included group discussions in Fiji, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

#### **Instructional Videos**

Recognising the need to continue providing ongoing training and skills development in specific clinical areas, in as practical, hands-on way as possible in a remote setting, Interplast has developed a library of instructional clinical video assets in 2020-21 with topics targeted at areas of specific need of our local partner clinicians. Videos developed and distributed included:

- Using a skin graft knife presented by Dr Kirstie MacGill, Interplast volunteer Plastic Surgeon
- Splinting of the hand (resting splint, thumb free) presented by Megan Fitzgerald, Interplast volunteer Hand Therapist
- Using the ISOBAR clinical tool for post-anaesthetic handover - presented by Caroline McLoughchlin & Michelle Day, Interplast volunteer Nurses
- Management of the Unanticipated Difficult Airway
   presented by Dr Moira Rush, Dr Amanda Baric,
   Dr Hosim Prasai Thapa, Dr Samantha Leung and Dr
   Gwendolyn Stewart, Interplast volunteer Anaesthetists.

Over 70 minutes of instructional video content has been produced and hosted in partnership with Praxhub, with clinical leadership and development by one (or a number of) Interplast volunteer clinicians, and managed around the challenging environment of regular lock-downs due to COVID-19.

The videos have been very well received by partners across the Asia Pacific and have been viewed over 350 times.

"Relationships built over years of face-to-face visits have been strengthened by being innovative in how we use online platforms. Learnings from this period will positively impact future educational programs as we mix face-to-face visits with online education."

- Interplast Volunteer

"Step by step videos that teach us how to do a certain skill are very helpful, we can watch them many times and share them with our colleagues. We are confident that they are the best quality, because they are from Interplast"

- Plastic surgical trainee, Sri Lanka

## NEPAL: SUPPORTING LOCAL PARTNERS TO CHANGE LIVES

Interplast supported Interburns to develop the Burn Prevention Handbook, a practical toolkit for locally run burn prevention programs in Nepal, with adapted application potential for other countries around the world. The guidelines were developed based on initiatives and methods developed during a two-year program delivered by Interburns in partnership with the Centre for Global Burn Injury Policy and Research. The guidelines include steps on how to mobilise leaders in the community to deliver targeted burn prevention training and awareness, an approach which many of Interplast's partner countries would benefit from in developing community-driven burns prevention campaigns in their own contexts. Interplast also supported Interburns, in partnership with Nepali local NGO SAGUN, to extend the delivery of the Basic Burn Care and Community Burn Prevention Program in four districts in Nepal, targeting primary health post staff and providing complementary training for Female Community Health Volunteers in burn prevention work. All preparation work to deliver these workshops was completed in the last twelve months and workshops will commence in early 2022, subject to COVID-19 restrictions in Nepal.

### FIJI: WORLD FIRST ONLINE TRAINING

Over seven weeks in late 2020, Interplast, with the support of Australia & New Zealand Burns Association (ANZBA) faculty of the Emergency Management of Severe Burns (EMSB) course, delivered a first-of-its kind, abridged online version of the EMSB program. While EMSB traditionally involves practical, hands-on demonstrations of clinical skills substantial elements of the course were able to be adapted to an online setting. Interplast and the ANZBA faculty focused on partners in Fiji where EMSB has already been delivered in-country on an ongoing basis over several years. With a growing local faculty able to deliver the course, people on the ground in Fiji were able to contribute to the online training.

### FIJI: BUILDING AND SUPPORTING LOCAL CLINICAL CAPACITY

In late 2020, Fijian local partners, with Interplast's support, delivered a burns nursing seminar in Fiji and burns symposium. Involving local & international speakers and covering a myriad of burns related topics, including the epidemiology of burns in Fiji and pain management in burns, the symposium brought together medical & nursing professionals from across Fiji. The symposium marked the successful completion of Fiji's first burns prevention campaign, led by Dr Semesa Matanaicake and his burns unit at Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWMH), and launched the new burns guidelines for Fiji.

The main objective of the burns nursing seminar was to educate and empower the Fiji nurses and doctors with appropriate knowledge to facilitate the initial care, assessment and appropriate dressing techniques of burns patients. Additionally, to ensure successful referral and communication between treating teams resulting in improved care from one clinician to another. A total of 69 people participated in the seminar including three guest speakers, nine CWMH Burns Unit representatives who facilitated the seminar, and 57 general participants. Interplast volunteer and wound management expert, Jan Rice, presented remotely and feedback reported this as one of the highlights of the seminar.

Plans were made for further training across Fiji in 2021 and beyond, targeting community health nurses and doctors in the Northern (Labasa), Western (Lautoka or Ba) and Central and Eastern Divisions.

"Interplast has been always the backbone for plastic/burns management in Fiji as they have been supporting us in every way that we ever needed. Vinaka Vakalevu Interplast."

- Losalini Senicaucau, Burns Nurse, CWMH, Fiji



Fijian facilitators of the first Burns Nursing Symposium

### PLANNING & EVALUATION

While Interplast undertakes continual design, monitoring and evaluation work as part of the ongoing delivery of its programs, ensuring that we deliver the most effective, sustainable and relevant outcomes for the needs of our local partners, each year we also deliver a number of specific, targeted planning and evaluation activities. These activities may involve conducting needs assessments for new programs, meeting with local partners in-country to monitor ongoing activities and conducting formal evaluations of full country programs as well as specific projects.

Since the emergence of COVID-19, Interplast has had to evolve the way it delivers these activities, while we are unable to travel and meet with partners and visit projects in-country. In 2020-21, Interplast undertook seven planning and evaluation projects, utilising a combination of remote/desktop-based work as well as engaging in-country consultants to undertake research, data collection and other projects on our behalf. There have been many benefits of this approach, including improving the transparency and accountability of our programs, engaging local expertise to evaluate local programs, and increasing

Interplast's networks and stakeholders who are able to add value to the programs that we deliver across our partner countries.

These specific planning and evaluation activities have complimented the ongoing work that Interplast does through its annual program planning (working closely with local partners and volunteer Country Coordinators to plan the year ahead) and project monitoring and reporting, which captures and assesses output and outcome data to assess impact and to feed back into program planning.

### MONGOLIA: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF BURNS INJURY

In the past six years, Interplast programs in Mongolia have had an increasing focus on addressing the significant problem of burns injury. Reports indicate that an extraordinary 20% of people will acquire a burns injury before the age of five. Compounding the issue, the capacity to treat burns injury is severely limited across Mongolia, particularly outside of the capital, Ulaanbaatar, and while there is some work being done to address this (including the building of a new burns-specific hospital in Ulaanbaatar), there remain significant gaps.

Interplast's focus has been on delivering burns surgical training and training for allied health professionals who support the rehabilitation of burns patients.

At the request of local partners, and in response to the significant burden of this issue, Interplast engaged a local Mongolian consultant to undertake an initial gap analysis of burns prevention and treatment in Mongolia, to better understand the extent of the problem, what services and capacity are currently available to address them, and who is working in this space.

The resulting report from this analysis provides a useful resource to use as a basis for planning both for Interplast and for local partners in Mongolia, highlighting areas of priority. A key recommendation is to conduct a more extensive study into the prevalence and incidence of burns injury and the establishment of a national burns prevention strategy. These recommendations will inform part of Interplast's focus in Mongolia in coming years.

### ADDRESSING GENDER EQUITY AND DISABILITY INCLUSION

Interplast is committed to improving equitable access and greater impact for women and girls, and people with disability, to its programs. In 2020-21 Interplast commenced a project to undertake research for a contextual analysis of gender equity and disability inclusion across its partner countries in the Asia Pacific region.

The project recognises that women and girls face different barriers in relation to their access to specialised health care, as do people with disabilities. Likewise, there are significant inequities within the health workforce based on gender or disability status, relating to representation across different professions and positions in leadership. These inequities directly impact on health outcomes. The project also recognises that while there are many shared challenges and themes, there are also differences in barriers and opportunities for inclusion between and within countries due to differing legal frameworks, policy mandates and systems in place which promote equity and inclusion, different resources to promote improved inclusion, and cultural differences which impact on access to health services and workplace equity.

To effectively address these barriers to inclusion and equity, Interplast and local partners need a better understanding of these barriers and opportunities presented in the specific context of that country, population, and within the hospitals and other organisations that Interplast partners with. To undertake this analysis, Interplast has engaged a local consultant in each country, who has expertise and background related to gender equity and/or disability inclusion, who will undertake a country-based desktop analysis and run interviews and focus-group sessions with key stakeholders, including our local clinical partners, past patients and representatives from local organisations for people with disabilities (OPDs) and gender-focused organisations.

To date, Interplast has engaged consultants in Fiji, Bangladesh, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, PNG and Mongolia, background research has been undertaken, and in-country research gathering has commenced. Work will continue in the next financial year and expand to include further partner countries.

"I very much appreciate Interplast's efforts to educate and train us about disability inclusion and gender issues – they are both important, but we need guidance."

- Local partner, Nepal

"I am glad to know that Interplast is doing meaningful work to strengthen disability inclusion practices in my country."

- Local partner, Bangladesh

### PHILIPPINES: STORIES OF HOPE

Thanks to our partners at the JR Borja General Hospital in Cagayan de Oro, including the team from Surgicare within the hospital, and the generous support of Rotary District 9810, Interplast was able to capture the heart-warming stories of patients treated by past Interplast team visits to Cagayan de Oro. Many of these patients were seen 4 or 5 years ago and hearing how their cleft lip and palate repair surgeries have changed their lives, and what they

have gone on to achieve, really brings home the lifechanging impact of Interplast's work.

"I now play with the other kids; they don't tease me about my cleft palate unlike before. I enjoy being with them and this gave me the confidence to play with them. When I want to smile, I smile. When I'm happy I laugh and I don't feel ashamed anymore"

- Mark, age 9 (operated on when he was 6 years old)

### EVALUATING IMPACT IN MONGOLIA, NEPAL AND SRI LANKA

During 2020-21, Interplast undertook extensive evaluation of our programs in Mongolia, Nepal and Sri Lanka, focusing specifically on program outcomes, outputs and impacts over the past five years in each location.

Each evaluation was led by a team, including an external Australian-based consultant, an in-country consultant (who undertook extensive data collection including interviews with local partner staff, clinical trainees and past patients and their families), and a member of the Interplast International Programs team. Alongside in-country interview and evaluation activities, in-depth interviews were conducted with Interplast volunteers involved in the delivery of programs in that country over the review period, Country Coordinators, members of Interplast's Clinical Governance Committee and working groups, and program staff.

It was wonderful to speak to patients, and their families, many of whom were treated 3-4 years ago, and find out how their lives have improved, and to hear directly from local partner counterparts how their involvement with Interplast has built clinical skills and confidence and has improved their capacity to treat their own communities.

The evaluation reports include extensive recommendations for continual improvement of Interplast's programs in these countries, including new areas to focus on that reflect changing local partner need. The full reports have been shared widely with local partners and other stakeholders, and the executive summaries of each are published on Interplast's <u>website</u>.

Interplast is grateful for the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), who enabled these evaluations to take place through Interplast's Australia NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) grant, and who contributed to their findings through the input of in-country DFAT staff.

"There are no words to describe how grateful I am to all the doctors who helped (my daughter). I wish that Interplast could help all the children in Sri Lanka with conditions like this because being a mother with a child affected by this condition, I know what those parents go through every day."

- Mother of a five-year-old patient, Sri Lanka

"I used to have so much pain that I couldn't move my right arm, but after the surgery the pain reduced. I was able to lift up my hand. My pain is not completely gone yet, but I'm glad it's much better than before. I was not able to exercise in physical education classes, but now I can do some small exercise. Two children in our class have burns and I told them about Interplast."

 Mongolian Patient, nine-year-old girl

"I want to thank Interplast for their continuous support to us and hoping for an expanded support program in the future. They have provided us overseas programs, and always work in a participatory manner....we are grateful to Interplast."

– Dr Shankar Rai, Plastic Surgeon, Kirtipur Hospital

"We must be thankful to Interplast because they have provided us support. Similarly, we have regular interactions with the therapists from Interplast. We have learned many things from their surgeons and therapists when they come here. We work together and discuss the needs of patients. With all these opportunities, I am more confident in my work."

- Mr Mohan Dangol, Burn and Hand Therapist, Kirtipur Hospital

"No other organisation consistently delivers training and contributes to ... improving burns management in the way that Interplast has."

– Dr Gayan Ekanayake;, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, National Hospital, Colombo

### SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

As well as supporting the provision of direct patient care and developing the clinical and non-clinical skills of workforces across our partner countries, Interplast also takes a comprehensive approach to provide other types of support to local partner organisations to more broadly support organisational systems, facilities, clinical units and longer-term plans and strategies.

This institution and system-level support develops a strong foundation to support workforce development and improved clinical results, improving sustainability of initiatives, and enabling partners to plan for longer-term outcomes and impacts. In some cases, where partners have the local expertise and skills to undertake projects, but lack funding to do so, we are able to assist. In other cases, partners may be looking

for assistance in building more specialised clinical units and facilities, or expertise in developing longer-term strategies to improve health outcomes in their regions.

In the 2020-21 financial year, we were able to do this across a number of partner countries, supporting five separate activities across four countries, which had a range of focus areas and outcomes.

### SUPPORTING THE MONGOLIAN SOCIETY OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS (MSA)

Interplast has continued to provide funding and technical support to the Mongolian Society of Anaesthesiologists (MSA), in partnership with the Australian Society of Anaesthetists, throughout the 2020-21 year.

Traditionally Interplast has provided support to the MSA to facilitate an Annual Scientific Meeting for the Mongolian Anaesthesiologists (their key annual educational forum), but this conference has not taken place since the emergence of COVID-19. Instead, in 2020-21, Interplast's support to the MSA was two-fold:

- Supporting the operating costs of the MSA research and education training center in Ulaanbaatar, benefitting Anesthesiologists in Mongolia through MSA-based residency training.
- 2. Translating and subtitling high-quality educational material, developed and delivered remotely by Interplast, into Mongolian language, to form part of a

suite of ongoing professional development resources available for mid-career anesthesiologists in Mongolia. These training resources include a detailed, practical training video demonstrating how to manage an unanticipated difficult airway, using the Difficult Airway Society (DAS) guidelines, and an on-demand webinar, presented by Dr David Pescod and Dr Moira Rush, providing the theoretical background to management of the unanticipated difficult airway, to complement the practical video. These resources represent the first in a number of educational materials planned for Mongolian translation to support the education delivered by the MSA.

### SRI LANKA: A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO THE MANAGEMENT OF BURNS INJURY

Interplast has been working in partnership with government and hospital partners in Sri Lanka since 2001. Initially the focus of our programs was supporting the provision of general plastic surgery, but as local capacity grew, the focus narrowed to more complex and sub-specialised areas including craniofacial surgery, head and neck surgery, hand surgery and hand therapy.

In more recent years, Sri Lanka has requested Interplast's support in various areas related to the treatment of burns injury such as specific training workshops, assistance with improving local facilities and building clinical skills related to burns treatment.

This year, we worked with partners at the National Hospital of Colombo to assist them in drafting their first Sri Lanka Burns Strategy, a key strategic document which aims to better articulate the issue of burns injury in Sri Lanka and establish clear goals and priorities for Sri Lanka for a five-year period. The strategy incorporates key activities to be supported by Interplast, in addition to locally driven activities that aim to improve survival rate and outcomes for patients with burns.

The draft strategy is now being circulated among key stakeholders in Sri Lanka for support and endorsement and will inform ongoing work in Sri Lanka to improve facilities and capacity to prevent, respond to and treat burns injury. This strategy will form part of a broader National Plastic Surgery Strategy for Sri Lanka, which will be developed in the coming year and will inform the prioritisation of resources, both from Interplast and from Sri Lankan partners more broadly.

"The 5-year burns strategy has been helpful, and we have already made progress in some areas including skin banking. We are working to establish a skin donation office, and already the digital burn unit assessment tool has been helpful in identifying areas for improvement"

- Dr Gayan Ekanyake, Sri Lanka





### BANGLADESH: STRENGTHENING ESSENTIAL PAIN MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Interplast has been working in partnership with the Bangladesh Society of the Study of Pain (BSSP) since 2013, when it began a partnership with BSSP and with the Australia & New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, to deliver the Essential Pain Management training program, and build local capacity related to the management of pain. In 2020, a comprehensive review of this program was undertaken (and published on Interplast's website), and one of the key recommendations was to provide further support for BSSP to build their own internal capacity to manage the local delivery of EPM, to have it embedded into undergraduate local training for

medical professionals, and to advocate for improved practices related to the management of pain overall.

Over the last year, Interplast has been working with the BSSP to identify and implement practical ways to action this recommendation, including work to recruit a new staff member who will carry this work forward on a local basis, in Dhaka. While the significant impacts of COVID-19 in Bangladesh have meant that the EPM course hasn't been able to be delivered this year, it is exciting to see progress happening to embed the delivery of this important education locally in Bangladesh, which will go a long way to seeing sustainable, long-term impacts of the program.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

Throughout 2020-21, Interplast continued work in partnership with UK-based NGO Interburns to develop a digital tool to assess burn services in low and middle income countries. In 2012, Interburns developed a document outlining the Operational Standards for Burn Services in Low and Middle Income Countries and subsequently developed a delivery assessment tool (DAT) to help burn units self-assess their services as part of a comprehensive approach to improving the quality of burn care. To improve the accessibility and availability of the tool, Interplast supported Interburns to digitise the DAT and develop resources to support burn units to undertake the assessment independently.

The digital DAT was piloted in 13 countries, including Interplast partners at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka and the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Fiji. The process involves coordinating a group discussion with key representatives from the burn unit including doctors, nurses, therapists and administrators, to work through criteria and agree on a score and document evidence. At the end, the group receives a scorecard highlighting areas they are doing well in and areas that need improvement or urgent attention. This process can be conducted annually to identify changes and new goals to work towards in improving the burns service.

The pilot groups reported that the discussions were beneficial, and the scorecard helped to identify specific recommendations for areas of improvement.

In June 2021, the digital DAT was made freely available on the Interburns website to encourage wide adoption of the tool and continue improving burn services around the world.

Interplast will continue to work with Interburns, and with local partners across the Asia Pacific, to support the roll-out of the digital DAT to benefit hospitals around the region.



Fijian physiotherapist Akisi Dovibua, with the CWMH team in Suva, excited about completing their first Burns Unit Assessment using the new Interburns Digital Assessment tool, as part of the project pilot.

### BANGLADESH AND SRI LANKA: BUILDING CAPACITY TO IMPROVE PATIENT OUTCOMES

Skin banking is a process whereby skin is collected from a donor (living or deceased), and then processed and stored for use in medical treatment. It is one of many types of organ donations, and one which is not often talked about. The need for skin donations is vast, particularly for patients who have had significant injury to skin, such as in the case of extensive burns injuries.

While in developed countries such as Australia and the United States, skin donation and skin banking are established and reasonably well resourced and complemented by newer technologies which produce synthetic skin replacement products, in Interplast's partner countries skin banking and donation is either non-existent, or in very early stages.

This lack of local facility and capacity in skin banking is compounded by the fact that burns injuries are highly prevalent, often very extensive and treated later than they ideally should be. Patients who are not able to access such resources are highly susceptible to infection and are often left without the treatment they need, where wounds cannot be closed and where there is no available skin to be grafted on to injured sites. In many of Interplast's

partner countries, setting up of skin banking facilities and capacity is hampered by lack of local knowledge and skills, lack of funding, and cultural considerations.

In Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, Interplast has begun early work to support local hospital partners to plan for their own skin banking facilities and capacity, both establishing the facilities to process and store donated skin, the systems needed to manage this process in line with international standards and ethical guidelines, as well as consideration of how skin donations will be obtained, with a need for nuanced, carefully planned and executed public awareness campaigns.

In 2020-21, Interplast was able to link local partners in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh with expertise from Australia, to begin sharing knowledge and experience on what is required to establish these systems and processes. Two separate training sessions were delivered, which were successful in beginning to develop important regional networks, discuss local constraints and opportunities, and share lessons learned from Australia in establishing skin banking and culturing.

Further work will continue in the coming years to support the establishment of these important facilities in selected partner countries.

"After talking with Stef from the Donor Tissue Bank of Victoria we followed the same processes and guidelines for harvesting and preserving skin and have been able to use these skills and knowledge on the first patient. The patient was a pregnant woman who sustained 45% burns to her body. We used cadaveric skin on her and have managed to avert any major sepsis. We still have a lot to learn and are harvesting and preserving skin on a small scale. However this is a success story and we have proven that we can deliver this treatment in Sri Lanka".

- Dr Gayan Ekanyake, Sri Lanka.

"The discussions were beneficial, not only to understand equipment but also what's required in terms of favourable state law/regulation, public awareness, a dedicated and well-trained team, good set-up, and adherence with international guidelines that are the keys to success. This will help with Bangladesh's efforts to establish skin banking."

- Dr Tanveer Ahmed, Bangladesh.



### VOLUNTEERS: OUR HEROES

During a time when Interplast volunteers were unable to travel overseas and provide direct care in the countries where Interplast works, our amazing team continued to have a significant impact. Their work may have changed, but their commitment has not.

Volunteers continue to be the lifeblood of Interplast, including our plastic and reconstructive surgeons, some orthopedic surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and allied health professionals. Without their continuing determination and passion Interplast could not achieve its purpose of repairing bodies and rebuilding lives.

During 2020-21, Interplast volunteers:

- Delivered hours of on-demand clinical education through the provision of webinars, and training modules
- Continued to be trusted advisors by making themselves available for remote mentoring and support to their international peers
- Offered patients hope and access to life-changing care by reviewing clinical files and providing remote consultations at a time where travel proved impossible
- Assisted in the development of resources, policies and other essential initiatives at the request of our partners.

Alongside the above, a number of our volunteers give an additional contribution as Country Coordinators, providing advice and input into Interplast program planning, monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, many of our volunteers also support Interplast by serving on our Board, committees and working groups providing clinical governance and support, and through financial donations to the organisation.

### THANK YOU TO OUR 2020-21 VOLUNTEERS

#### Surgeon

Anand Ramakrishnan **Andrew Castley** Charles Davis Cheng Lo\* Craig Quarmby Damien Grinsell **David Ying** Eldon Mah\* George Pratt Julian Lofts\* Kirstie MacGill Mark Ashton Mark Strahan Michael Leung Michael Lo Mike Klassen Mikko Larsen **Nelson Low** Randall Sach Russell Corlett Siddharth Karanth Steven Salerno Tim Proudman Tony Penington\*

#### **Anaesthetist**

Amanda Baric
Andrew Clift\*
David Pescod
Francois Stapelberg\*
Gwendolyn Stewart
Hosim Prasia Prasia
Thapa\*
Ian Hogarth
Moira Rush
Philippa Hall
Roger Gouke
Samantha Leung

Trudi Disney\*
Wayne Morris
Yasmin Endlich

#### Nurse

Bec Schrale
Caroline McLoughlin
Daisy Sargent
Hana Menezes
Jan Rice
Karolin King
Kelly Drew\*
Leah Lynch-Rurehe
Michelle Day
Philippa Tesselaar

#### **Allied Health**

Amanda Taylor\* Brodwen McBain Hannah Van Tuil Helen Scott Jane Aarons Jeff Sanderson\* Jenny Ball Karen Fitt Liz Webb Liz Capell Megan Fitzgerald Melissa Parkin Nicola Massy-Westropp Nikki Frescos Penny McMahon Sarah Florisson

#### **Other Professions**

Collette Massy-Westropp\* Mark Kol\* Stefan Poniatowski\*



#### \* = new volunteer in FY21

Please note that the above list is of volunteers who volunteered on specific program activities during the financial year 2020-21. We are grateful for our many other active volunteers.



"The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating for the delivery of surgical programs. It has required us to think more broadly about how we engage and support our overseas colleagues. I have been lucky to be involved in the development and delivery of online educational resources. While I remain hopeful that we will be able to travel again soon, providing access to virtual teaching materials is likely to be a core part of Interplast's service delivery in the future."

- MOIRA RUSH, ANAESTHETIST

"During tough times we are asked to band together and help one another. I believe the use of the new technology allows us to offer that support, reduce the isolation and enable our partners to continue working with their patients to achieve better standards in health care. I am proud to have been part of that TEAM - Teaching Everyone And Mentoring."

- JAN RICE, NURSE

"Whilst we miss our overseas colleagues terribly and miss working with them in their countries, their response to the pandemic and ability to carry on in dire circumstances has been humbling and impressive. The mentoring relationships we have developed have never been so important."

- JENNY BALL, PHYSIOTHERAPIST

"I am privileged to be involved with this little organisation which does amazing work across the Asia-Pacific. I feel lucky to have worked with great people both here in Australia and in the countries we have partnered with. I am grateful to our sponsors which make this work possible."

- ANAND RAMAKRISHNAN, PLASTIC SURGEON

### PARTNERSHIPS

Interplast could not succeed without the incredible individuals, groups and businesses who, each year, join us in raising funds and promoting the work of our organisation. It's these supporters who make it possible to achieve our purpose of repairing bodies and rebuilding lives in the Asia Pacific region. We thank each and every one of you for the difference that you make.

### CORPORATE AND PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS

Interplast continues to be supported by some of Australia & New Zealand's most respected corporate and philanthropic partners, who demonstrate their ongoing commitment to providing life-changing care across the Asia Pacific region.

In 2020-21 we wish to thank and acknowledge:

- Avant
- · Chemtronics Biomedical Engineering
- Device Technologies
- Edgbaston Investment Partners
- Johnson & Johnson Medical
- · Leconfield Wines
- · Medical + Optical
- Medtronic
- MicroCloud
- MinterEllison
- The Noel & Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation
- The Orloff Family Charitable Trust
- OPC Health
- Stryker
- Therapist Support Laboratory (TSL)
- Victor Smorgon Charitable Fund

### **INDUSTRY PARTNERS**

Interplast Australia & New Zealand is supported by partners who collaborate with and support us in our work providing life-changing surgical and associated health services across the Asia Pacific region. We thank each of the following organisations for your contribution in 2020-21.

- Australasian Foundation for Plastic Surgery
- Australian Hand Therapy Association
- Australian and New Zealand Burn Association
- Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
- Australian Society of Anaesthetists
- Australasian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons
- Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons
- Children First Foundation
- Interburns
- Lifebox Foundation
- New Zealand Association of Plastic Surgeons
- New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists
- ReSurge International
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
- · Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children
- Rotary New Zealand World Service Limited
- SPC (The Pacific Community)

In addition to the businesses and foundations listed, we wish to acknowledge the suppliers and individuals with whom we regularly work, many of whom go above and beyond for us. Although there are too many to mention by name, we would like to particularly acknowledge Clinical Imaging, Gippsland Broadband, Left of Boom, PPT Managed Services, Praxhub, Rusty Assets, and Connecting Up. Every one of these suppliers is passionate about working with Interplast to change futures. We cannot thank them enough for their contribution.

#### **Australian Government**

Interplast acknowledges the importance of its participation in the Australian Government's Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). With the support of the Australian Aid Program, and the many NGOs who are a part of it, Interplast is able to continue and broaden its life-changing work.



### LIFEBOX AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Lifebox Australia and New Zealand (Lifebox ANZ) is a partnership between the Lifebox Foundation, Interplast, the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists. Together, this partnership helps strengthen anaesthesia and surgical safety through the distribution of pulse oximeters and associated training to hospitals across the Asia Pacific region.

Monitoring oxygen levels in the blood is essential for anaesthetised patients during surgical procedures, as the slightest change can lead to organ failure, brain injury and death. Pulse oximeters are a vital tool in low-resource settings that allow healthcare professionals to respond swiftly when a patient requires oxygen support. These devices also play a critical role in the assessment and treatment of COVID-19 patients, utilising oxygen saturation levels to help determine when medical intervention is required.

In 2020-21, we were delighted that the Lifebox Australia and New Zealand partnership was able to fund and

distribute one hundred pulse oximeters to hospital partners in Papua New Guinea to assist in the clinical response to COVID-19.



### **CBM AUSTRALIA**

During 2020-21, Interplast formalised a partnership with CBM Australia to support several critical initiatives. CBM Australia's Inclusion Advisory Group (IAG) partners with organisations to realise the rights of persons with disabilities, recognising that people with disabilities routinely face barriers to full inclusion and participation in their communities. Partner organisations can access multi-skilled teams of CBM advisors and research partners in disability, to strengthen and benefit their own programs and organisations.

Interplast worked with CBM's Inclusion Advisory Group on a number of projects. This included the development of Interplast's first Disability Inclusion Strategy. With the IAG, Interplast also developed a training package to deliver in partnership with local Disabled Peoples Organisations in our partner countries, to build awareness and understanding of disability inclusion within the hospitals that we partner with overseas. Additionally, the partnership supported a number of Interplast projects to undertake contextual analysis of disability inclusion and gender equity issues across our partner countries.



### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Interplast exists and continues to provide access to life-changing surgery and allied health treatments to those who would otherwise not be able to receive it, because passionate people come together to make this possible. Alongside our volunteers, local in-country partners, ambassadors and other partners, we are incredibly grateful to the many community groups who fundraise for us and promote our work in their own communities.

### **INTERPLAST'S LARAPINTA TREK WITH TURIA**

In April 2021, after an eight month delay due to COVID-19, twenty-two participants from across Australia joined Interplast Ambassador, Turia Pitt, on the trip of a lifetime trekking the Larapinta Trail in the West MacDonnell Ranges, Northern Territory.

Together, the group raised over \$108,000 to support Interplast's programs and capacity building activities in developing communities in the Asia Pacific region. Before the trek even began, the team faced multiple challenges with a delayed start date, training constraints due to COVID-19 restrictions in their local areas, and an increasingly difficult fundraising

Larapinta participants

Michelle Allen

Karis Aplin

Rebecca Bulloch

June Cowin

Penny Claiborne

Danielle Duncan

Jason Hofmann

Jessica Houston

Lisa Howarth

Brendan Johnson

Dee-anne Krause

Sophie Lewis

Kirstie Macgill

Julie Martyn

environment with limited events able to be held. Each member of the group came up with creative ways to continue raising funds and to physically prepare and we are so proud of their wonderful achievement.

Congratulations to all involved in this experience of a lifetime and thank you for your incredible fundraising efforts. We want to especially acknowledge the remarkable efforts of our two top fundraisers, Penny Claiborne and Lisa Rodgers, who showed immense determination to exceed their goals, and successfully engaged their communities and networks to maximise their fundraising results, raising over \$10,000 each.

Grace McBride

Jasmine Meagher

Sally Newsome

Lisa Rodgers

Jasmin Scanlan

Tara Sullivan

Valentina Thiering

Rachel Warneke

Dr Michael Bonning

(Team Leader)

Bianca Drieberg (Team

Leader)

Turia Pitt (Ambassador)

Rebecca Dash (Interplast Staff)



### ROTARY: EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Interplast was established in 1983 as a joint project between Rotary District 980 (now 9800) and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Rotary clubs and districts continue to be vital partners of Interplast. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every Rotarian, Rotary Club and District dedicated to repairing bodies and rebuilding lives in the Asia Pacific region.

In acknowledging the significant contribution of Rotarians, we wish to particularly pay tribute to:

- The dedicated Rotarians who volunteer as Interplast
  District Chair within their area. Together, they have
  helped connect Interplast to Rotary clubs across
  Australia and New Zealand, and highlight the
  importance of essential healthcare across the region
- The nine past District Governors who sit on the Interplast Rotarian Committee, providing strategic and highly valued advice to the Interplast Board and management teams on matters related to Rotary.
- The four past District Governors who are Company Members – responsible for electing the Board and holding it accountable.

- The two Rotarians who generously give their time and expertise as Directors of the Interplast Board.
- The many individual Rotarians who donate to Interplast through their club and district activities.

Every patient who receives treatment from an Interplast volunteer is there because of the initial vision of Rotarians. Every surgeon, anaesthetist, nurse, and allied health professional can offer their time and talent as a direct result of involvement from Rotarians, their clubs, and their districts.

The legacy of Rotary and Rotarians continues to be part of the fabric of Interplast today and into the future.



#### **District 9930 provides vital equipment**

Clubs and Rotarians of District 9930 came together to raise over \$10,500NZD through a raffle drawn at the District Conference. The funds will be used to purchase a Cleft Lip and Palate Mannequin/Simulator, one of the most advanced cleft lip & palate surgery training tools available today, for Interplast's partners in Fiji and across the Pacific Region. Many thanks to Interplast District Chair, Elizabeth Wright, who coordinated the raffle.



#### The day the teddy bears had their picnic

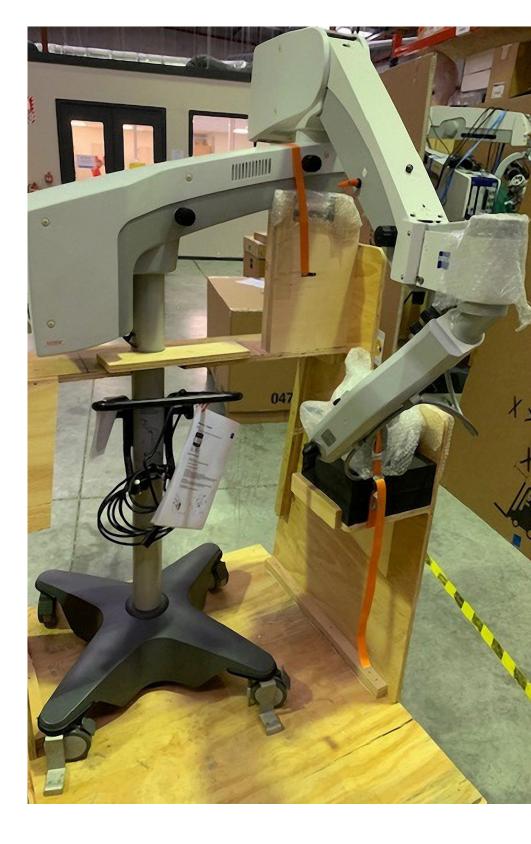
Kurrajong North Richmond Rotary Club hosted a Teddy Bears' Picnic complete with games and yummy food hampers and a good old Rotary sausage sizzle. The highlight of the day was presenting Interplast with a labour of love - 222 hand-knitted teddy bears to be gifted to young children undertaking life-changing surgery – lovingly made by friends of Rotary from local Probus Clubs and church groups.

# TRAVELS OF A MICROSCOPE

Rotarians and Rotary Clubs in District 9820 in Victoria, Australia, have long been dedicated supporters of Interplast's work, with donations since 2005 exceeding \$550,000.

Most recently, the Rotary Club of Inverloch and the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo, in District 9820, came together to raise funds to ship a donated microscope from Auckland, New Zealand to its new home at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva, Fiji. The wonderful donation of the microscope by St Marks Rd Surgical Centre in Remuera, Auckland, and the support from Carl Zeiss New Zealand Ltd, has been matched by Rotary generosity to send it on its way to Fiji.

The specialist Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) microscope is not your average microscope. Weighing over 170 kg, it requires careful packing and freighting to ensure that it arrives at its destination in full working order. Access to the microscope will make a significant contribution to successful surgeries in the CWM Hospital and improve the outcomes for patients facing ENT surgery.



#### **Our Network of Rotary Friends**

Although we have highlighted just a small sample of the contributions made by Rotary clubs and districts across Australia and New Zealand, Rotarians all around the region have been beside Interplast every step of the way as we deal with the challenges of COVID-19, and its impact on already strained health systems. This year, as with all past years, Rotarians proudly assisted to change futures.



# ROTARY DONATIONS 2020-21

Interplast is grateful to the following districts and clubs who generously donated during the 2020-21 financial year, and also thank the many individuals and businesses connected to Rotary who support the work of Interplast.

#### **Rotary District 9455**

Dalkeith Freshwater Bay

Karrinyup

Matilda Bay Northam

Osborne Park

Welshpool

#### **Rotary District 9465**

Armadale

Attadale

Booragoon

Kenwick

Rockingham

Willetton

#### **Rotary District 9510**

Adelaide Central

Gawler

Goolwa

Loxton

McLaren Vale

Morphett Vale

Prospect

St Peters

#### **Rotary District 9550**

Ayr

Mossman

#### **Rotary District 9570**

Rockhampton North

Walkerston

#### **Rotary District 9600**

Ashgrove/The Gap

#### **Rotary District 9630**

Archerfield

Carindale

Cleveland

**Ipswich City** 

Wynnum & Manly

Australia Nomads

#### **Rotary District 9650**

Gloucester

Inverell

Port Macquarie Sunrise

#### **Rotary District 9670**

East Maitland

Morisset

Muswellbrook

#### **Rotary District 9675**

Camden

Five Dock

Ingleburn

Kiama

Narellan

St George Next Gen

Sutherland

Sydney

West Wollongong

Wollondilly North

#### **Rotary District 9685**

Kurrajong North

Richmond

Penrith Valley

Ryde

Springwood

#### **Rotary District 9705**

Bathurst Daybreak

Belconnen

Canberra-Weston Creek

Cowra

Gerringong Sunrise

Ginninderra

Merimbula

Pambula

Wagga Wagga Kooringal

#### **Rotary District 9780**

Ballarat West

Belmont

Geelong

Geelong

Horsham Kardinia Portland Portland Bay Torquay

Warrnambool

Maryborough

Naracoorte

Ocean Grove

Mount Gambier

Warrnambool Central

Warrnambool East

Wendouree

#### **Rotary District 9790**

Albury

Albury North

Holbrook

Lavington

Pascoe Vale

Sunbury

Yea

#### **Rotary District 9800**

Bendigo Sandhurst

Camberwell

Canterbury

Central Melbourne-

Sunrise

Melbourne

#### **Rotary District 9810**

Bentleigh Moorabbin

Central

Box Hill Burwood

Forest Hill

Glen Waverley

Manningham

Maroondah

Moorabbin

Nunawading

Rowville Lysterfield

Wandin

Warrandyte Donvale

#### **Rotary District 9820**

Berwick

Dromana

Foster

Frankston North

Inverloch

Koo Wee Rup-Lang Lang

Mitchell River

Mount Eliza

Phillip Island and San

Remo

Yarram

#### **Rotary District 9830**

Deloraine

Devonport North

Evandale

Glenorchy

Howrah Salamanca

Scottsdale

Smithton

Westbury

#### **Rotary District 9920**

**Auckland Airport** 

Auckland South

Ellerslie Sunrise

Howick

Manukau City Sunrise Papakura

Savusavu

Waiheke Island

#### **Rotary District 9930**

Paeroa

Thames

The above listing reflects the clubs and districts that gave during the 2020-21 financial year. It may not include clubs whose funds were received after 1 July 2021. Whilst every effort has been made to accurately record these generous donations, we apologise for any that have been overlooked in error.

# HONOURED MEMBERS

The title of *Honoured Member* is awarded to Interplast supporters who have given exceptional service to Interplast over a period of at least five years and who continue to formally represent Interplast in various activities. It recognises the accomplishments of distinguished volunteers or supporters to the wider Interplast community and builds a lasting relationship with these valuable individuals. Last year, the Board extended the Honoured Member initiative to include eligibility for our international partners.

Congratulations to our 2020-21 Honoured Members.



## DR SEMESA MATANAICAKE

Dr Semesa Matanaicake is the first local partner in the Pacific to have the title of Honoured Member conferred upon him.

Dr Semesa has consistently led and championed the development of plastic and reconstructive surgery in Fiji and across the Pacific Islands more broadly, including training and mentoring of other Pacific surgeons, and undertaking locum outreaches to the smaller islands to address skills shortages. He established Fiji's first plastics and burns unit, identified, encouraged, and mentored many local junior clinicians, including championing the importance of the 'whole team' in surgical outcomes.

Semesa plays a key role as local faculty for many of Interplast's training programs, including Emergency Management of Severe Burns and the plastic skills workshops.

Importantly, Semesa advocates for Interplast's programs and broader objectives at all levels in Fiji and the Pacific – hospital administration, government, community, medical workforce, and in Australia at global forums.

When considering the title of Honoured Member, Dr Semesa Matanaicake is a notable recipient, highly regarded by all Interplast volunteers and staff who have had the pleasure of working alongside him. Although Semesa may have benefited from Interplast's involvement in Fiji, he is a dear colleague, trusted friend and as of this moment, an Honoured Member of Interplast Australia & New Zealand.



## PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR MR. BRIAN GUEST

In recognising Brian Guest, the Board acknowledges his service to the organisation

as a Company Member, current member of the Rotary Committee, current Interplast District Chair, former Chair of the Rotary Committee, former Board Director, and former Company Secretary.

Brian Guest is one of Interplast's strongest supporters and public advocates for the work of the organisation. He has seen our work firsthand in Laos (2009) and Fiji (2011). He regularly travels throughout Western Australia to raise awareness of the organisation and our work across the Asia Pacific region.

Through the Rotary Club of Kenwick, Brian has championed the raising of close to \$1m for Interplast through a series of fundraising initiatives including Climb for a Smile and the Rotary Regular Giving program.

As an experienced Interplast District Chair, Brian is regularly asked to support new IDC appointees, and many have had the pleasure of his leadership, guidance, and support.

Brian is a most worthy recipient of the Honoured Member title, and we are delighted that the organisation is able to recognise him in this manner.



# GOVERNANCE, COMMITTEES AND STAFF

#### **Company Membership**

During the period of this report, the Company Membership has been constituted as follows:

#### Dr Michael McGlynn OAM

MBBS FRACS

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Nominee

#### Mr Keith Mutimer AM

MBBS FRACS

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Nominee

#### Professor David Watters AM OBE

MB ChB FRCS (Edinburgh) FRACS Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Nominee

#### PDG Anne Brand OAM

District 9630 Rotarian Nominee

#### PDG Marie Dorrington OAM

District 9500 Rotarian Nominee

#### **PDG Brian Guest**

District 9465 Rotarian Nominee

#### PDG John Dodd

District 9685 Rotarian Nominee

#### PDG John Barnes

District 9800 Rotarian Nominee

#### Mr David Inglis AM

Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws Independent Nominee

#### Professor Mark Ashton

MB. BS. MD FRACS Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons Nominee

#### **Board of Directors**

## Mr Keith Mutimer AM (Retired November 2020)

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, Fellow Royal Australasian College of Surgeons President

#### Dr Michael McGlynn OAM

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, Fellow Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Vice President (Appointed President November 2020)

#### Ms Hayley Morris

Bachelor of Arts (Communication)
Vice President

#### Mr Peter Caldwell

Diploma of Business Studies (Accounting), Chartered Accountant FCPA

Treasurer

#### Ms Marie Dorrington OAM

Bachelor of Arts, Diploma of Education, Diploma of Teaching Secretary

#### Mr John Dodd

Bachelor of Law and Economics
Director

#### Ms Margaret Jackson AC

Bachelor of Economics, Master of Business Administration, Honorary Doctor of Laws, Fellow Institute of Chartered Accountants, Fellow Australian Institute of Company Directors Director

#### Dr Kirstie MacGill

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, Fellow Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Diploma in Anatomy, Master of Surgical Education Director (Appointed Vice President February 2021)

#### Ms Amy McLeod

Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Commerce, Certificate in Governance Practice Director

#### Dr Philip Ragg

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, Fellow Australia and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Director

#### Ms Emma Skinner

Bachelor of Pharmacy
Director (Appointed February 2020)

#### Mr Paul Sundberg

Bachelor of Economics (Honours), Chartered Accountant FCA Director

#### **Executive Committee**

The Committee consisting of the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer meets as required to provide strategic support to the CEO.

#### **Audit and Risk Committee**

The objective of the Audit and Risk Committee is to assist the Board of Directors to discharge its corporate governance responsibilities in relation to financial affairs and compliance with regulatory requirements.

- Mr Paul Sundberg (Chair)
- Mr Peter Caldwell
- Mr Grant Chisnall
- Dr Michael McGlynn
- Ms Amy McLeod
- Mr Frank Micaleff

#### Clinical Governance Committee

The Clinical Governance Committee assists the Board of Directors to discharge its corporate governance responsibilities to exercise due care, diligence and skill in relation to clinical review and risk involved in the implementation of program activities.

- Dr Philip Ragg (Chair)
- Professor Mark Ashton
- Ms Jenny Ball AM
- Mr Chris Bennett
- Ms Gillian Dickinson
- Dr Ian Hogarth
- Mr Damian Ireland
- Mr James Leong
- Associate Professor Michael Leung
- Dr Kirstie MacGill
- Mr Peter Maloney
- Ms Penny McMahon
- Dr David Pescod AO
- Ms Robyn Price
- Mr Anand Ramakrishnan
- Ms Leonie Simmons
- Ms Melissa Woods

#### **Rotarian Committee**

The Rotarian Committee provides professional advice and assistance to the Board of Directors in relation to all matters pertaining to our relationship with Rotary Clubs and Districts across Australia and New Zealand.

- PDG John Dodd D9685 (Chair)
- PDG John Barnes D9810
- PDG Anne Brand OAM D9630 (Retired August 2020)
- PDG Gerard Blizzard D9830
- PDG Marie Dorrington D9500
- PDG Brian Guest D9465
- PDG Ms Di North OAM D9675 (Appointed November 2020)
- PDG Murray Verso D9800
- PDG Dr lain Wakefield D9920

## **Supporter Engagement Committee**

The Supporter Engagement Committee assists the Board of Directors in relation to matters pertaining to fundraising, marketing and communication and supporter engagement strategies.

- Ms Hayley Morris (Chair)
- Mr Gary Ahmad
- Ms Margaret Jackson AC
- Mr Saiful Nasir
- Ms Morgan Ryan
- Ms Emma Skinner

#### **Nurse Working Group**

The Nurse Working Group provides clinical and educational advice and assistance to Interplast on the development and evaluation of Interplast nurse education activities.

- Ms Leonie Simmons (Chair)
- Ms Gillian Dickinson
- Ms Angela Doherty
- Mrs Linda Ferguson
- Ms Christine Hunter
- Ms Karolin King
- Ms Hana Menezes
- Ms Jo Oxbrow
- Ms Jan Rice
- Ms Daisy Sargeant
- Ms Annette Tarabaras

#### **Allied Health Working Group**

The Allied Health Working Group provides clinical and educational advice and assistance to Interplast on the development and evaluation of Interplast program activities that include components of hand therapy, physiotherapy and burns rehabilitation.

- Ms Brodwen McBain (Chair)
- Ms Jennifer Ball (Allied Health Coordinator - Pacific)
- Ms Sharon Goldby (Allied Health Coordinator - Asia)
- Ms Katie Anjou

- Mrs Shirley Collocott
- Ms Yvonne Fellner
- Ms Megan Fitzgerald
- Ms Sarah Florisson
- Ms Diana Francis
- Ms Kylie Harrison
- Ms Penny McMahon
- Ms Beth McNeish
- Ms Melissa Parkin

#### **Interplast Staff**

Current staff as at 30 June 2021

#### Cameron Glover

Chief Executive Officer

#### Matthew Blanks

Coordinator - International Programs

#### Alison Chan

Financial Accountant

#### Rebecca Dash

Head of Campaigns & Events

#### Janette Etherington

Coordinator - Rotarian Engagement

#### Jess Hill

Director - International Programs

#### Peter Huggan

Director - Finance & Corporate Services

#### **Thomas Loporto**

Senior Coordinator – International Programs

#### Zoe Martin

Equipment Assistant

#### Lindsay Morton

Coordinator - International Programs

#### Leonie Simmons

Coordinator – Program Equipment & Resources

#### **Interplast ambassadors**

Turia Pitt

Mike Rolls

Jess Hosking

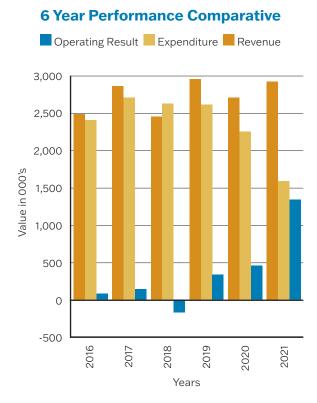
# FINANCES

### YEAR IN REVIEW

Interplast recorded an operating surplus of \$1.345m for the year ended 30 June 2021. Whilst the operating result is healthy, a large proportion of the result (\$1.05m) has been pledged to fund future programs rather than operating expenses.

Knowing COVID-19 would prevent Interplast from sending medical teams overseas during the year, operations were substantially changed to facilitate remote training and education. The change in operational function saw programming costs reduce from \$1.29m FY20 to \$0.75m in FY21. Interplast also took advantage of the Australian Federal Government's Jobkeeper program which helped retain staff to develop the remote operating model.

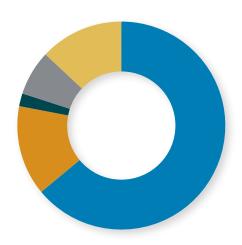
COVID-19 continues to impact on fundraising initiatives for both Interplast and our supporters. Costs for cancellations and deferrals are largely not recoverable and this issue will continue to impact fundraising initiatives in FY22 while lockdowns and uncertainty of lockdowns prevail.



#### Where the money comes from

Community & Corporate Support Income received from the Australian public and corporations in the form of public donations, fundraising and bequests.  64%	\$1,868,341
<b>DFAT</b> Grants received directly from the DFAT - Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and Pacific Islands Program (PIP).  14%	\$405,766
Australian Organisations & Trusts Income received from other Australian organisations, trusts and foundations.  2%	\$48,500
Rotary Income earned from grants and donation receipts from Rotary clubs, and individual donations attributed to a donor's Rotary club and/or district.  7%	\$222,193
International Organisations Income received from overseas corporations & trusts.  0%	\$7,780
Other Income Income received from in-kind donations, interest	\$378,217

\$2,930,797



and Government Support.

**TOTAL INCOME** 

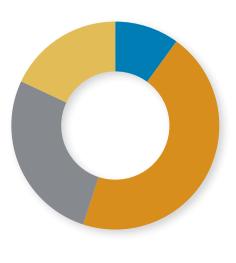
13%

#### Where the money is spent

International Programs Includes all expenses and support costs associated with our country programs.  50%	\$792,250	
Operating Costs Covers administrative and other costs inherent in running an organisation, including staff time in the areas such as finance, office administration, insurance premiums, rent, consultancy fees and other running costs.  30%	\$479,243	
Fundraising & Marketing Costs associated with attracting more support through donations, sponsorships and community awareness. This includes costs such as staff time, events, advertising, mail-outs, website, and the processing of donations.  17%	\$276,919	
Community Education Costs related to increasing awareness and educating the Australian community on humanitarian and development issues.  3%	\$43,681	
TOTAL COSTS	\$1,592,093	

#### The real value is priceless

Volunteer services 9%	\$157,451
38 Surgeons and Anaesthetists for a total of 56 days	\$144,098
29 Allied Health Specialists, Nurse Educators and Nurses for a total of 30 days	\$13,353
International programs 45%	\$792,250
Operational 28%	\$479,243
Fundraising & Marketing 18%	\$320,600
REAL VALUE	\$1,749,544



 $<sup>^{\</sup>star}\, \text{further details are available in our full financials which can be accessed at}\, \underline{\text{www.interplast.org.au}}$ 

<sup>\*</sup> The value of volunteer services reported in the financial accounts is based on rates determined by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) which, given the highly specialised nature of our volunteers, is a significant underestimation. The above figures represent a more realistic, although still conservative estimate. This chart illustrates the real impact if Interplast had to pay for this invaluable expertise.

### **SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Statement of comprehensive income** 

The summary financial statements have been prepared in accordance with requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Guidance available at <a href="https://www.acfid.asn.au">www.acfid.asn.au</a> or by emailing contactus@interplast.org.au. Further details are available in our Annual Financial Report which can be accessed at interplast.org.au.

For the year ended 30 June 2021		2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
Revenue			
Donations & Gifts - Monetary		1,693,706	1,277,205
Donations & Gifts - Non Monetary		0	101,316
Bequests & Legacies		396,828	219,185
Grants			
Government		405,766	765,445
Other Australian		48,500	169,858
Overseas		7,780	9,362
Interest		19,233	46,833
Other Income		358,984	129,259
Total revenue		2,930,797	2,718,463
Expenditure			
International aid and development programs expenditure			
International Programs			
Funds to international programs		444,111	937,821
Program support costs		310,036	352,463
Community Education		43,681	133,129
Fundraising Costs			
Public		276,919	410,846
Government		-	15,402
Accountability and Administration		479,243	349,376
Non-Monetary Expenditure		38,103	26,019
Total international aid and development expenditure		1,592,093	2,225,056
Domestic programs		<del>-</del>	33,397
Total expenditure		1,592,093	2,258,453
Excess of revenue over expenditure		1,338,704	460,010
Total comprehensive income		1,338,704	460,010
Statement of changes in equity	Retained	General	Total (\$)
For the year ended 30 June 2021	earnings (\$)	reserve (\$)	10tal (\$)
Balance at 1 July 2019	2,127,256	500,000	2,627,256
Comprehensive income for the year	460,010	-	460,010
Reserve Transfer	(700,000)	700,000	-
Balance at 30 June 2020	1,887,266	1,200,000	3,087,266
Comprehensive income for the year	1,338,704	-	1,338,704
Reserve Transfer	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2021	3,225,970	1,200,000	4,425,970
Bulance at 30 Julie 2021	3,223,910	1,200,000	7,723,370

#### **Statement of financial position**

For the year ended 30 June 2021	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
		_

Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,704,916	3,457,481
Receivables	9,232	4,119
Prepayments	1,228	34,293
Inventories	502	5,067
Total current assets	4,715,878	3,500,960
Non current assets		
Property and equipment	77,704	129,714
Total non-current assets	77,704	129,714
Total assets	4,793,582	3,630,674
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Payables	95,176	72,308
Deferred income	41,110	346,613
Provisions	223,403	118,908
Total current liabilities	359,689	537,829
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	7,923	5,579
Total non-current liabilities	7,923	5,579
Total liabilities	367,612	543,408
Net assets	4,425,970	3,087,266
Equity		
General Reserve	1,200,000	1,200,000
Retained Earnings	3,225,970	1,887,266
Total equity	4,425,970	3,087,266

#### **Recognised Development Expenditure: Value of Volunteer Services**

The value of volunteer services is not included in the accounts. However, for the purposes of claiming DFAT Recognised Development Expenditure the following information has been prepared in accordance with the rates approved by DFAT.

#### **Australian volunteers**

For the year ended 30 June 2021	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
38 Medical Specialists for a total of 56 days		
(2020: 39 Medical Specialists for a total of 266 days)	37,483	142,787
29 Allied Health Specialists, Nurse Educators and Nurses for a total of 30 days		
(2020: 43 Allied Health Specialists, Nurse Educators and Nurses for a total of		
317 days)	12,037	103,325
Total Value of Volunteer Services	49,520	246,112

# AUDITOR'S REPORT



#### Interplast Australia & New Zealand

Independent auditor's report to members

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Interplast Australia & New Zealand. (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Interplast Australia & New Zealand has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Company's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

Level 20, 181 William Street Melbourne VIC 3000 Telephone: +61 3 9824 8555 williambuck.com

William Buck is an association of firms, each trading under the name of William Buck across Australia and New Zealand with affiliated offices worldwide.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation. (WB015 2007)





#### Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the summarised financial report in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations), the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and the disclosure requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the summarised financial report.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of these financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\_responsibilities/ar1.pdf

This description forms part of our independent auditor's report.

William Buck Audit (Vic) Pty Ltd

William Back

ABN: 59 116 151 136

J.C. Luckins Director

Melbourne, 12 October 2021

# ACCOUNTABILTY

Interplast operates in a highly regulated environment, with laws, regulations, licences and codes of conduct that we need to comply with to ensure we remain accountable to the community in our funding countries, and in our program countries.

In our program countries

We comply with all the regulations and expectations of each country in which we work. We ensure that all medical volunteers have relevant medical registrations, along with the correct visas. We also comply with all Customs requirements regarding medical equipment and supplies. We abide by all local laws and protocols, along with following the work practices of our partner hospitals. We only go where we have been invited and have the approval of local authorities.

## **Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission**

As a registered charity, Interplast is required to comply with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) Act 2012. This includes complying with Australian Accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

#### **Australian Taxation Office**

The Australian Taxation Office has given Interplast the status of a Deductible Gift Recipient, granted exemption from Income Tax and provided concession for Fringe Benefits Tax and GST.

Reporting requirements comprise mainly annual fringe benefits tax returns, quarterly Business Activity Statements and monthly pay-as-yougo (PAYG) submissions.

## **Australian Securities and Investments Commission**

As a public company limited by guarantee, Interplast is required to comply with the regulations of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

#### **DFAT Accreditation**

Interplast is accredited by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), which is responsible for managing the Australian Government's aid program. To maintain accreditation, Interplast's systems, policies and processes are rigorously reviewed by the Australian Government every five years. Accreditation ensures the transparent and accountable use of funding, and covers our entire portfolio, including non-development activities and activities that are not funded by DFAT.

As an accredited agency and trusted recipient of funds, Interplast receives support from DFAT through the Australians NGO Cooperation
Program (ANCP).

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

#### **ACFID**

Interplast is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. ACFID is the peak body for aid and international development NGOs and its code of conduct upholds the highest standards of ethics, effectiveness and accountability. For further information about the Code, please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Guidance Document available at acfid.asn.au.

Complaints relating to a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct by an ACFID member can be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee (www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints).

#### **Fundraising**

Fundraising licenses are required by all states in Australia in order to raise funds within their borders.

Interplast holds all required licenses and complies with the requirements associated with these licenses, which include such conditions as providing extra reporting to particular states. Interplast is a member of the Fundraising Institute of Australia (FIA) and complies with the FIA Code of Conduct.

#### **Complaints**

Interplast has a process for handling any complaints. The complaints policy and process can be found on our website at interplast.org.au. If you wish to lodge a complaint about Interplast, send an email to contactus@interplast.org.au, phone our office on 03 9249 1231 or mail the office listed on the back cover of this report.

#### **Registered office**

Minter Ellison Lawyers Level 20 Collins Arch 447 Collins Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000

#### **Bankers**

Westpac

#### **ABN**

59 006 155 193



# REPAIR BUILD ES AND REBUILD LIVES WITH US

Achieving Interplast's vision of providing access to life-changing surgical and related healthcare for all, can only be achieved with the support of the many incredible individuals, groups and businesses who join us in raising funds and promoting the work of our organisation.

Please support us to ensure our life-changing work can continue.

**DONATE TODAY** 

interplast.org.au/donate

