

## Interplast Australia & New Zealand Papua New Guinea Country Program Evaluation 2016-2021

### Terms of Reference

Interplast Australia & New Zealand (Interplast) is undertaking an evaluation of its Papua New Guinea (PNG) country program, covering the period 2016-2021, and is seeking *Expressions of Interest* from suitably qualified consultants or researchers to conduct the evaluation. The successful consultant will have experience and relevant qualifications in evaluating health or community development programs in developing countries, particularly in the Asia Pacific region, and an understanding of the country context and development challenges in PNG.

If you are interested in being considered for this evaluation, please provide to Interplast an *Expression of Interest* detailing your relevant experience, a proposed approach to addressing the *Terms of Reference* including your proposed methodology; a brief outline of how you would structure the evaluation report; a project budget (including number of consultant days/fees per day/other costs), and the names/contact details of two referees.

Proposals should be emailed to: [contactus@interplast.org.au](mailto:contactus@interplast.org.au) with 'PNG Country Program Evaluation 2022' in the subject line.

Closing date: **COB 12 December 2022**

Interplast strongly recommends applicants to familiarise themselves with its work via the Interplast website: <https://interplast.org.au/>

If you have any questions relating to this *Terms of Reference*, please email them to the 'contactus' email address listed above.

The final evaluation report will be delivered to Interplast by **mid-June 2023**.

### Context

Interplast has conducted in-country programs in PNG since 1985, making it one of the most frequently visited and longest-term partner countries, with significant investment since its commencement. During this time, Interplast volunteers have delivered in-country surgical and mentoring programs. From early 2020, Interplast suspended all in-country programs due to travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, mentoring relationships between volunteers and their PNG clinical partners have continued remotely, as have Interplast's broader training programs and professional development programs. These have been delivered on-line; through live webinars, clinical instructional videos and symposia. The on-line education programs have reached surgical, nursing and allied health audiences across the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

### Purpose

The purpose of the PNG country program evaluation is to give Interplast a greater understanding of the effectiveness of the program, enabling it to apply findings and recommendations to improve the PNG country program, and other country programs of a similar scale across the Asia Pacific region.

The evaluation will gauge the extent to which Interplast's program has delivered benefits for clinicians and their patients in PNG, and will:

- examine and document the impact of Interplast's PNG country program from 2016 to 2021
- evaluate the implementation of Interplast's objectives for PNG
- monitor and examine progress towards the achievement of Interplast's PNG vision
- analyse and report on the effectiveness of how the program contributes to Interplast's broader goals and objectives for PNG, including identifying any hindrances to achieving those goals
- make recommendations for the program.

The evaluation findings will be used to inform Interplast's program planning and implementation, and to communicate the results of its program activities in PNG to key stakeholders.

The consultant will work with key personnel, including Interplast's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Adviser, Interplast program coordinators, and PNG country coordinators.

The audience for this evaluation includes: Interplast's Board of Management; Interplast's PNG country coordinators and volunteers; Interplast management and staff; the Government of PNG health-related agencies; health professionals, relevant clinical administrators, and patients in PNG; relevant Interplast committees and working groups; the Australian Government and other donors.

The insights, findings and recommendations of the evaluation will be used to inform future programming decisions for the PNG country program, for in-country surgical and mentoring programs, and for online education programs; and to highlight the achievements of Interplast's PNG country program to donors, partner governments and members of the public.

## Evaluation criteria and questions

The evaluation will focus on the following criteria:

*Impact:* what difference does the program make?

*Effectiveness:* is the program achieving its objectives?

*Coherence:* how well does the program fit?

*Relevance:* is the program doing the right things?

*Efficiency:* how well are resources being used? Value for money?

*Sustainability:* will the benefits last?

It will also examine the PNG country program through the lens of Interplast's strategic objectives and targets, which are:

- *Provision of outstanding patient care*
- *Building a sustainable surgical workforce*
- *Strengthening hospitals and clinical institutions*
- *Delivery of systemic change.*

### Evaluation questions:

The following questions serve as a guide and cover the scope of issues to be addressed as part of the evaluation.

#### *Impact*

1. What are the key impacts and outcomes of Interplast program activities since 2016?

#### *Effectiveness*

2. What progress has been made towards achieving PNG program objectives?
  - How have capacity building efforts in the specialty areas of burn and pain management and plastic and reconstructive surgery improved skills and patient outcomes?
3. What have been the key challenges, and how has Interplast applied that understanding to program delivery in PNG?

#### *Coherence*

4. What do stakeholders see as the features that make the program a success?
5. To what extent has local ownership and local input to program design been a part of the PNG country program?

#### *Relevance*

6. Do Interplast partners see the PNG program as successful and relevant?
7. Are the programs supported by PNG's Ministry of Health, and the broader health sector (e.g partner hospitals)?

#### *Efficiency*

8. Are program outcomes commensurate with Interplast's investment in the in-country program, and in mentoring and on-line educational programs?
9. What is the view of key stakeholders on the program's appropriateness, and how Interplast's resources are deployed?
  - Are there gaps in the program that volunteers have observed that have affected outcomes of the surgical program?

#### *Sustainability*

10. How sustainable are the program impacts and outcomes?
11. How can Interplast support local partners to take ownership and independently continue to ensure that the program impact is sustainable?
12. What are training and mentoring priorities for partners moving forward, and if/how Interplast might support these priorities?

Building on Interplast's 2021 baseline study conducted in PNG on gender and disability inclusion:

Collate and update de-identified data on gender and number of people with a disability accessing Interplast programs, as either medical trainees, or patients, and provide an analysis on:

- a. Gender of the person who has benefited from Interplast programs (patients and medical professionals)

- b. Whether there are different opportunities and challenges for men, women, girls and boys to access Interplast services, and what could be done to improve the program in this regard
- c. Whether people with a disability have had difficulty accessing Interplast services, and what could be done differently to better support their access (this could apply to patients and medical trainees)
- d. How the program has improved the lives of patients with a disability
- e. The extent to which gender and disability has been mainstreamed into Interplast's programs.

## Methodology

**Desk review:** The successful consultant will incorporate a desk review of existing material to provide an overview of the role of the program, and a brief contextual analysis of PNG's development indicators.

**Analysis and overview:** The consultant will examine the PNG country program through collecting and summarising quantitative information (output data and end-of-program reports) and qualitative information (program narratives/interviews with stakeholders) and provide a comprehensive overview and description of the program over the five-year period, based on the summary information and interviews with informants.

**Informants:** The consultant will work with a range of informants to the evaluation, conducting interviews with:

- PNG program country coordinators
- Interplast's International Programs staff
- Volunteers that have participated in the PNG country program; including surgical, nursing and allied health volunteers
- In-country stakeholders (clinicians/patients and their families/partner hospitals/staff from relevant ministries/DFAT post).

**Evaluation report:** The key deliverable for the evaluation will be a comprehensive report covering:

- A brief overview of the outcomes of the PNG country program
- A synthesis and analysis of:
  - program reporting data
  - recommendations and findings of program outcomes from end-of-program reports
- An analysis of findings from interviews with informants, to gauge the outcomes and impact of the PNG country program from the perspective of all stakeholders
- The extent to which the PNG country program is accessible and inclusive to patients and clinicians regardless of gender and disability
- A presentation of case studies/stories from in-country clinical stakeholders, and patients and their families
- Findings and recommendations to inform decisions on future programs in PNG.

Interplast will use the analysis, findings and recommendations of the evaluation to understand:

- The outcomes and impacts of the PNG country program
- The contribution of the program to improved outcomes for patients
- Improved skills for partner clinicians accessing training/mentoring; and the reach of Interplast's professional development program (both in-country and online)

- Gender and disability inclusion, for both patients and clinicians
- How the evaluation findings and recommendations will inform the design and scope of capacity building and patient programs, both in-country and (for capacity building) through Interplast's online learning platform.

## Timeframe

Each milestone will be completed by the end of each month, unless otherwise specified.

**December 2022:** Consultant contract finalised; proposed approach/outline/budget agreed

**January 2023:** Report outline agreed, desk review component complete/draft submitted

**February-March 2023:** In-country research coordinated/first draft completed and submitted

**April 2023:** Draft findings and recommendations drafted/agreed

**May 2023:** First draft of report submitted

**Mid-June 2023:** Report finalised and submitted to Interplast.

## Background

Interplast Australia and New Zealand (Interplast) is a non-government organisation (NGO) which sends teams of volunteer plastic and reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and allied health professionals to provide life-changing surgery and medical training in 17 countries across the Asia Pacific region.

Interplast's vision is: *Quality and accessible surgical care, for all*

and its mission is: *Enhancing quality of life through positive surgical and health outcomes*

Interplast does this through providing surgical services to those who could not otherwise afford or access these services; by building the capacity of local medical systems (including rehabilitation services) through training and mentoring programs, and through supporting the strengthening of hospitals and health systems.

Its work focusses on four key areas:

- *Provision of outstanding patient care*
- *Building a sustainable surgical workforce*
- *Strengthening hospitals and clinical institutions*
- *Delivery of systemic change.*

Interplast is accredited with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is registered by the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission, and is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct. It works in partnership with local organisations in partner countries; including hospitals, universities and local NGOs, and like-minded international and domestic organisations and partners.

### ***Interplast's PNG program:***

Interplast has delivered programs in PNG since 1985, making it one of the most frequently visited and longest-term partner countries, with significant investment since its commencement. Its focus has been on plastic and reconstructive surgical services and related training.

Specialist surgical training is a long-term undertaking in PNG, and Interplast is assisting to fill the shortage of specialist services by sending plastic and reconstructive surgery teams to work alongside surgical teams in PNG with the aim of managing the overwhelming caseload of patients, whilst at the same time training local health practitioners. The primary goal of the program is that PNG will be better placed to manage clinical need without external support.

Volunteer training and surgical teams have included visits to Port Moresby, Mt Hagen, Madang, Alotau, Wewak, Rabaul, Bougainville, Vanimo and Lae. Surgical services and plastic and reconstructive surgical and related training have been delivered via specialist clinical services which are otherwise unavailable in PNG, and by working with local partners to build capacity in relevant clinical and other services. Interplast programs in PNG have also included specific training in early burns management, nursing, and physiotherapy and pain management.

While there has been some progress towards developing local capacity to provide reconstructive plastic surgery services in recent years, with a population of over 8 million, PNG is still a long way from having the local capacity to meet the demands of the large numbers of patients that continue to be identified for treatment.