

**CELEBRATING  
40 YEARS OF  
CHANGING  
LIVES IN THE  
PACIFIC & ASIA**



# ABOUT US



Established in 1983 through collaboration between the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and Rotarians across Australia, Interplast Australia & New Zealand (Interplast) is a not-for-profit organisation which provides volunteer plastic and reconstructive services, together with capacity building activities in developing communities in the Asia Pacific region.

Today, Interplast provides life-changing surgery and health professional training in 17 countries across the Asia Pacific region, made possible by 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). 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.

## Our vision

Quality and accessible surgical care, for all.

## Our mission

Enhancing quality of life through positive surgical and health outcomes.

## Our values

In all that we do, we will demonstrate our values of integrity, respect and collaboration.

## Our guiding principles

Interplast seeks to ensure that surgery and related health services across the Asia Pacific region are:

- Effective
- Accessible
- Equitable
- Sustainable
- Patient-centred



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



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



Interplast Australia & New Zealand is supported by Rotarians in Clubs and Districts throughout Australia and New Zealand.

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# REFLECTION

## OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT



### Interplast partner countries

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Mongolia    | 9. Indonesia         |
| 2. Nepal       | 10. Papua New Guinea |
| 3. Bhutan      | 11. Solomon Islands  |
| 4. Bangladesh  | 12. Vanuatu          |
| 5. Laos        | 13. Fiji             |
| 6. Vietnam     | 14. Tonga            |
| 7. Sri Lanka   | 15. Samoa            |
| 8. Philippines | 16. Kiribati         |

Interplast was honoured to return to a number of countries this year:

- |                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| • Nepal            | • Fiji  |
| • Bhutan           | • Tonga |
| • Papua New Guinea | • Samoa |
| • Solomon Islands  |         |

We also supported a number of local health professionals from the following countries to undertake overseas training:

- |             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| • Bhutan    | • Solomon Islands |
| • Sri Lanka | • Fiji            |
| • Indonesia |                   |

Interplast provided remote and/or financial support to Mongolia and Nepal this year.

Although Interplast has traditionally worked in Myanmar, due to the political insecurity there during the year, Interplast did not actively engage in programmatic work. We hope to return in the near future and continue building upon our positive relationships.

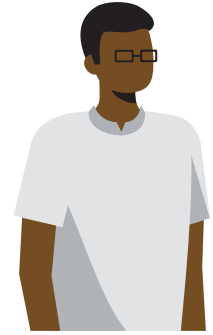
# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

**182** **319** **215**

OPERATIONS  
PERFORMED

PATIENT  
CONSULTATIONS

ALLIED HEALTH  
TREATMENTS



**1,772**

TRAINING  
OPPORTUNITIES

**1,077**

LIVE WEBINAR  
PARTICIPANTS

**5,712**

ONLINE MODULE  
LEARNERS



**6**

SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED

**76**

VOLUNTEERS  
ON PROGRAMS



**639**

DAYS SPENT  
VOLUNTEERING



**40%** OF PATIENTS  
WERE FEMALE

**60%** OF PATIENTS  
WERE MALE



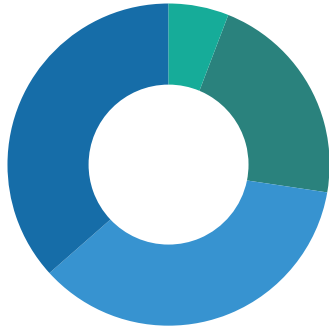
THE OLDEST  
PATIENT WAS **85** YEARS  
OLD

THE YOUNGEST  
PATIENT WAS **4** MONTHS  
OLD





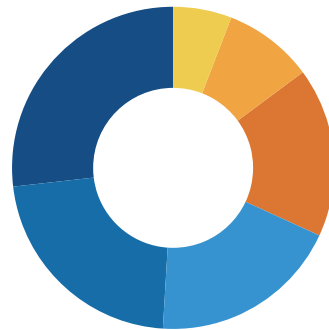
## Classifications of surgery



- Other (infective conditions and conditions that are inflammatory / degenerative) (6%)
- Tumours (benign and malignant) (22%)
- Congenital (36%)
- Trauma (37%)



## Types of surgery



- Treatment of infective or degenerative condition (6%)
- Repair of other congenital condition (9%)
- Reconstruction following (non-burns) trauma (17%)
- Reconstruction following burns injury (19%)
- Surgical treatment of benign or malignant tumour (22%)
- Cleft lip and palate surgery (27%)

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with much pleasure that I present the 40th Annual Report of Interplast Australia & New Zealand, and my first since being elected as President.

From the initial vision of Rotarians who chose to partner with plastic surgeons, to the diverse multi-disciplinary teams we now utilise throughout the region, the positive impact of our work is significant. Like so many years before, as we reflect on the year that was, Interplast has much to celebrate.

After the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on the communities with which we partner, we have spent time this year rebuilding links with our partner clinicians and administrators. Our commitment to them was not altered during the pandemic, nor has it changed as we emerge from the worst of the pandemic. Interplast continues to provide essential surgical and allied health care to those in greatest need.

2022 – 2023 saw the return of our highly-skilled volunteer medical teams to partner countries, primarily into the Pacific and back to limited locations in Asia.

As you will read on the pages following, our teams are highly regarded and continue to change futures, not only of the individuals they treat, but also of the professional colleagues we support. As we look to a future of sustainability, some of our greatest achievements come not from individual procedures, but the long-term training, mentoring and systemic change that remains a focus of our work.

Our 40th year also saw highly respected development organisation, Motivation Australia, join with Interplast to allow us to build upon their legacy of exceptional disability-inclusive development and a focus on assistive technology. A logical extension to the Interplast mission, the Motivation Australia team joined Interplast in November 2022 and have added so much in their short-time with us. Together, we truly are stronger.

None of this work is achieved in isolation and I wish to take some time to acknowledge the enormous efforts of those who make it happen. First and foremost, our volunteers give their time and talent, determined that our neighbours have access to quality and timely care. They continue to step-up every time we ask them to do so.

Our donors, supporters and partners have all demonstrated their ongoing commitment to the vision of Interplast, and this year once again highlighted that they stand alongside us in pursuit of our mission.

To our small staff team who undertake much of the work to keep the organisation thriving, often under challenging circumstances in an ever-changing global development landscape; on behalf of the Board, I congratulate them for their efforts, and thank each of the team for their ongoing passion and dedication to Interplast.

Finally, to my fellow Directors on the Interplast Board, who continue to ensure the governance and stewardship of Interplast, thank you for your contribution. Each is committed to their role and strives to ensure the Interplast is able to respond to both opportunities and risks as they emerge.

As we look ahead, with 5 billion people around the world still without access to safe, accessible surgical care, our work remains unfinished. However, as we demonstrated in our 40th year of Interplast, the future is bright.



**Kirstie MacGill**  
Interplast President



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

When Rotarians and surgeons came together in 1983 to launch Interplast, I doubt they could ever have imagined the enormous positive impact their vision and determination would have across the Asia Pacific region.

As Interplast celebrates our 40th year of changing lives, this impact has never been greater, and their role in building futures, never more important.

Interplast's 40th year is one of two parts – the first a year that remained restricted by the lasting impacts of COVID-19 as a global pandemic, the second being one of celebration as our incredible volunteers returned to overseas travel and in-person support of our partners.

With a continued focus of delivering exceptional patient care, building a sustainable surgical workforce, strengthening hospitals and clinical settings, and working to create positive systemic change in the countries in which we work, the 2022 – 2023 year was also highly successful.

Despite the challenges that come from working in international development and global health during a pandemic, everyone involved with Interplast in the past year should be immensely proud of our impact.

As you will read further in this annual report:

- 182 operations were performed to individuals that would otherwise not have been able to access life-changing care without the support of Interplast's exceptional medical volunteers.
- 1,772 training opportunities were delivered to our clinical partners throughout the region.
- 5,712 individuals accessed online educational modules developed by Interplast, allowing them to enhance their clinical skills.
- 6 clinicians from our network of partners were able to further their professional education following receipt of an Interplast scholarship.

Although our statistics are again impressive, it is the work that is more difficult to measure that perhaps has greatest impact. Once again, our exceptional volunteer team have given freely of their knowledge and skill through mentoring, coaching and support of our overseas partners. The quickly turned around email response, a text message exchange or the late-night video call offered regularly all add to the exceptional impact of Interplast.

As we rightly celebrate the past year, and the decades of life-changing work beforehand, I wish to acknowledge not only Interplast's volunteers, but our donors and supporters. Every year, this passionate group of individuals continues to advocate for, and champion, the work of Interplast.

I also take this opportunity to thank the staff and Board at Interplast. Every day I have the honour of working with a passionate, dynamic and visionary team committed to ensuring the next year is better than the last. The past financial year was not without external challenges within the international development sector, but this team continues to challenge the status quo, think differently, and respond to any need as it arises.

In presenting this Annual Report, I congratulate everyone involved with Interplast. As I wrote last year, when working as one, Interplast is a powerful force changing lives.



**Cameron Glover**  
Chief Executive Officer





# SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

Following years of programming interrupted by COVID-19, and the global restrictions on travel, the 2022 – 2023 year was one that saw our specialist medical teams return to partner countries and continue their life-changing work alongside their international counterparts. Importantly, the innovation and opportunity displayed during the peak of the global pandemic continued to be part of our programs.

As Interplast entered a 40th year of changing lives, there is much to celebrate, including:

- Bringing highly-regarded NGO, Motivation Australia, under the umbrella of Interplast so their important work in the fields of assistive technology, rehabilitation services and disability inclusive development could continue.
- Returning to seven of our partner countries as soon as borders re-opened and it was clinically responsible to do so. In the year ahead we will once again work alongside our partners as we return to 'normality' across the Asia Pacific region.
- Offering 1,000+ clinicians the opportunity to engage in world-class clinical education through Interplast's live-streamed webinar series. An additional 5,700+ unique views were captured, reconnecting health professionals with content previously created by Interplast alongside our education partner, Praxhub.
- The provision of 182 operations for individuals who would otherwise not have access to such surgical support. Through their interaction with Interplast these individuals have been able to have procedures undertaken in their home country, thereby allowing a timely return to their families and communities.
- Directly supporting 461 clinicians throughout the Asia Pacific region to undertake specialist custom gender and disability training. This training will ultimately lead to better patient outcomes as a result of participation by clinicians in the region.
- Completion of two comprehensive evaluations of Interplast's work – the first an analysis of our impact in Papua New Guinea covering a five year period, and the second an in-depth evaluation of our allied health programs.
- Continual engagement with Interplast supporters and donors. In particular 2022 – 2023 saw a significant increase in engagement with Rotarians in clubs and districts throughout Australia and New Zealand. Just as they were in 1983, this year Rotarians continued to be among our greatest advocates, champions and supporters.



# OUR WORK

## OVERVIEW

The World Health Organization (WHO) first recognised the importance of surgery within primary healthcare in 1980. However, it was not until 2015 that a coordinated global effort to strengthen surgical systems was adopted.

To address the gaps in health systems for surgical care worldwide, the Lancet Commission proposed six indicators of robust surgical systems. These indicators have been adopted by the World Bank

Group as part of their World Development Indicators. The surgery, obstetrics and anaesthesia workforce indicator has also been included in the World Bank's 2018 Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals.

Globally, by 2030: Indicator	Target
Access to timely essential surgery	Minimum of 80% coverage of essential surgical and anaesthesia services per country.
Specialist surgical workforce density	100% of countries with at least 20 surgical, anaesthesia and obstetric physicians per 100,000 population.
Surgical volume	100% of countries tracking surgical volume; minimum of 5,000 procedures per 100,000 population.
Perioperative mortality rate	100% of countries tracking perioperative mortality rates (national targets set in 2020).
Protection against impoverishing expenditure	100% protection against impoverishment from out-of-pocket payments for surgical and anaesthesia care.
Protection against catastrophic expenditure	100% protection against catastrophic expenditure from out-of-pocket payments for surgical and anaesthesia care.

### Interplast's Role

Building upon Interplast's life-changing work since our formation in 1983, today Interplast's development activities focus on four interlinked areas of work:

- Direct patient care
- Building a sustainable clinical workforce
- Improving clinical institutions
- Creating lasting change through enhancing strategic health systems.

Although Interplast was able to resume our in-country programming part way through this year,

as in previous years, the impact of COVID-19 and subsequent travel restrictions continued to alter the way we work. The 2022 – 2023 year again saw us continue to support our partners through these complementary focus areas.

### Quality and accessible patient care

Interplast believes that every person should be able to access life-changing surgical and related medical care when it is needed. This year, we have provided this care through a number of projects.

While teams were unable to travel, we continued to support local partners through remote case mentoring and providing financial support for those most vulnerable to receive treatment. Mid-way through the year, with borders opening, we were able to resume sending our experienced volunteer teams to return in-country, to deliver surgical and allied health services.

A return to six partner countries saw us complete essential life-changing surgical and related healthcare to those in need.

## Developing a sustainable surgical workforce

Capacity and capability building of the surgical workforce across the Asia Pacific region is of paramount importance. To ensure individuals requiring care are well supported by specialist medical, nursing and allied health professionals, Interplast is committed to upskilling surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and allied health professionals involved in patient care.



During 2022 - 2023, our commitment to building a sustainable workforce continued through the provision of digital education and remote mentoring, as well as through supporting scholarships for partner clinical personnel to undertake training and professional development in Australia, and through sending our volunteers back in-country to deliver in-person, face to face clinical training within hospitals, universities and other settings.

## Strengthening clinical institutions

The World Health Organisation estimates that 134 million adverse events occur each year in hospitals in low and middle-income countries, contributing to 2.6 million deaths annually as a result of unsafe care. This past year we have worked closely with partner hospitals to help them improve their practice, including supporting efforts to improve access to clinical services for women, girls and people with disabilities. Projects have also worked closely with hospital partners to develop and improve clinical protocols and facilities to support the provision of improved healthcare.

## Enhancing health systems

Globally, there are 143 million additional surgical procedures needed every year to save lives and prevent disability. The need for systemic change to address significant disadvantage is evident. Our 2022 – 2023 programming involved working with local partners to improve their systems, processes and resources to enhance patient care and health outcomes – including through development of key national strategies to support provision of clinical services and support workforce development.



# PATIENT CARE: EXCEPTIONAL CARE, EVERY TIME

As Interplast reflects on 40 years of life-changing patient care, it is easy to focus on the numbers - the number of individuals, the number of consultations and the number of procedures undertaken. We know however that our impact is bigger than statistics alone.

Each 'statistic' is a person that deserves the exceptional care made possible by Interplast clinicians working alongside their colleagues in our partner countries. The continuation of COVID-19 as a global pandemic limited our ability to return to in-country care for a significant period. However, once borders re-opened, our specialist teams were again back doing their best work.

This financial year, 534 patients directly benefited from Interplast's support through a mix of consultations, surgical procedures and allied

health treatments. Each one of these treatments are more than a number – they are a chance to receive life-changing intervention and care.

Despite supporting 534 individuals, those needing our support continue to grow in number.

Following a three-year gap in deployments to partner countries, Interplast was fortunate to deliver six surgical mobilisations to five Pacific Island countries; Fiji (twice), Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Tonga, and one surgical mobilisation to Bhutan.

In total, Interplast specialist medical teams carried out 319 consultations of patients during screenings and clinics. Of these consultations, 182 patients received life-changing procedures that they may not have otherwise been able to access. Additionally, Interplast volunteers delivered 215 allied health treatments to reduce the impact of disability and improve patients' function previously missing due to injury or congenital condition.

Beyond the direct patient consultations and procedures, Interplast provided both financial and mentoring support to local counterparts to undertake six independent microsurgery procedures at the Kirtipur Hospital, Nepal. Five of the six patients received treatment for acquired traumatic injuries that required specialised microsurgical techniques, such as free flaps and skin grafts. These cases were completed independently by the local team, with remote support and advice from Interplast mentors.

Additionally, Interplast provided direct support to local counterparts in Bhutan, Sri Lanka and



Fiji, which enabled them to continue to provide quality treatment to their patients – including specialised feeding bottles for babies with cleft lip and palate conditions, surgical sutures for partners experiencing supply shortages and surgical loupes (magnifiers mounted inside the focal points of glasses) for two plastic surgery trainees, to support their final years of training.

## Introducing Faletoa

Faletoa was first seen by an Interplast surgical team in 2018, when he was just 8 months old. Faletoa was diagnosed with a cleft lip and palate and received his cleft lip repair from Dr Damian Marruci. In 2019, a year later, Faletoa received his cleft palate repair from Dr Damian and local surgeon Dr Junior Posini.

During Interplast’s most recent trip to Samoa, Dr Damian and the Interplast team received a third visit from Faletoa and his mother. This time Faletoa was diagnosed with velopharyngeal insufficiency (VPI), a condition where the soft palate does not close completely. This causes air to come out of the nose instead of the mouth; impacting Faletoa’s ability to speak clearly and be understood by those around him.

*“Some kids at school would tease Faletoa cause his speech was not clear. And he would get really frustrated and stopped going to school.”*

Faletoa’s condition is congenital, meaning he has struggled with speech since he was born. Children with speech disorders often face exclusion in the community and at school, whilst Faletoa’s family were faced with the financial stress of his long-term treatment plan, which involved making the



journey across islands from Savai’i to Apia three times to meet the visiting Interplast teams.

*“The hospital didn’t have any baby bottle specialized for babies born with cleft lip and palate. We had to search all over and we didn’t have any luck finding any. So, we ended up feeding Faletoa with a syringe for every feeding.”*

Faletoa and his family waited three years for Interplast to make its first trip back to Samoa since COVID-19 grounded its overseas programs in 2020.

Fortunately, Dr Damian and Dr Mayday successfully repaired Faletoa’s palate disorder. Interplast is overjoyed that teams can re-connect with patients like Faletoa who have been treated in previous years and require follow-ups and continuity of care. With no specialist plastic surgeons in Samoa, Interplast teams provide life-changing plastic and reconstructive surgery that would otherwise not be accessible.

*“His speech is clear and we can understand him... Interplast made a difference in our daily life by allowing our son to feel like he belongs.”*



## Introducing Kinley

The Interplast team were able to return to Bhutan in June for the first time since the emergence of COVID-19. There, CEO Cameron Glover and the Interplast volunteer team had the honour of meeting Kinley. At just five years of age, Kinley was involved in an accident at home.

In Southeast Asia, delicious meals can be cooked outdoors with open flames. Unfortunately, children are too often hurt by reaching for hot equipment or falling into fires.

Though Kinley was provided initial care after his accident, his injury developed into contracted scar tissue. As there are no specialist burns or plastic surgery services in Bhutan, he had to wait to receive treatment.

Children with burn scar contractures require complex care to prevent their scars from tightening as they grow. Without medical attention, their



scars will increasingly restrict their movement. These children may lose their ability to walk or run. They may be unable to hold a pencil. This will impact their ability to play and participate in games, school their communities.

On this visit, volunteer surgeon Dr Rob Coren and local Bhutanese surgeon Dr Sonam Jamtsho were able to successfully release Kinley's scar contractures by grafting skin from his thigh. To support Kinley's recovery, Interplast hand therapist Megan Fitzgerald and local therapists fabricated a splint with foam lining and Velcro straps.

Hand therapy is an active area of interest for many physiotherapists in Bhutan. Many travelled from across Bhutan to attend Interplast's hand therapy clinic. Together they practised and shared skills and expertise in supporting tendon injuries, severe trauma injuries, finger amputations and ongoing rehabilitation. These skills are vital for supporting children like Kinley to regain and maintain function after surgery.

Before the Interplast team left, Kinley received a hand knitted blanket from Australia. This was fashioned into a cape, showing the world that he is as brave as his favourite superhero, Spiderman.

While Bhutan does not currently have any specialist plastic and reconstructive surgeons in-country, through the support of Interplast, Dr Sonam Jamtsho has been able to train in India, Nepal and now Australia.

Upon his expected return to Bhutan in February 2024, Dr Sonam will become the first specialist plastic surgeon in his country. With ongoing support from Interplast, in time he will be able to lead the provision of care to individuals such as Kinley. What a remarkable achievement this will be.



## Introducing Frezole

Interplast's surgical team first met two-year-old Frezole in 2017.

He was diagnosed with a severe lymphatic mass malformation in his lower jaw, which he has lived with since birth. Unfortunately, children with prominent growths often face exclusion in their community and at school, while their families struggle with the financial burden of diagnosis and long-term treatment plans.

Due to the absence of specialised plastic surgeons in Solomon Islands, Frezole did not receive any medical intervention until 2019, when the Interplast team was finally able to treat him. Visiting Interplast teams play a critical role in providing transformative plastic and reconstructive surgery to children like Frezole, who would otherwise lack access to this essential care.

This year, during Interplast's most recent visit to the Solomon Islands, Dr Moaveni and Dr Jarrad Lilygeto successfully removed the mass from Frezole's face. Frezole's mother, Joylyn, was overwhelmed by the change.

*"Frezole will be willing to go to school because of his good health. Frezole aims to be a doctor because of his experience with this sickness. As a mother, I really appreciate this operation. His health makes me really proud."*

This visit marked Interplast's first return to Solomon Islands since their overseas programs were suspended in 2020 due to COVID-19. Dr Scott Siota expressed his relief at the opportunity for Interplast teams to reconnect with patients.

*"... Over the past years accumulated and these patients have been frequently visiting our clinics just to ask on when Interplast team will come, so their children could have surgery..."*

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Capacity and capability building of the surgical workforce across the Asia Pacific region is of paramount importance. To ensure individuals requiring care are well supported by specialist medical professionals, Interplast is committed to upskilling surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses, and allied health professionals involved in patient care.

During the past 12 months, Interplast:

- **Delivered 1,772 training and development opportunities** to clinicians working in multiple areas of speciality. Of these opportunities, 812 were provided to women and 467 were provided to men.
- **Undertook seven surgical mobilisations**, offering close to 130 training opportunities to medical personnel. The training participants represent a wide scope of professions across surgery and allied health, ranging from heads of departments to plastic surgery trainees, to senior and junior nursing personnel, anaesthetists, practising allied health professionals and first-of-their-kind speech pathologists and physiotherapy students from local universities.
- **Returned to Fiji to deliver the first Emergency Management of Severe Burns (EMSB) Program since 2019**, with the objective of building up a faculty of Pacific-based instructors who will in-turn be able to deliver the training with minimal external support. This visit included one instructor refresher course and two EMSB provider courses. At the conclusion of the week-long training program, ten participants were identified to join the faculty next year.
- **Delivered three allied health training programs** which enabled approximately 60 training opportunities to participants in Fiji and Papua New Guinea. In Fiji, Interplast delivered a week-long training program at the Fiji National

University, focused on speech pathology for cleft lip and palate and the management of hand injuries and burns. In Papua New Guinea, two programs were delivered; the first being diabetic foot care training to reduce the number of lower limb amputations at the Alotau Provincial Hospital.

This training was the first-of-its-kind delivered in Papua New Guinea and has established a trained multi-disciplinary cohort with a strong foundation to address the impact of diabetic foot disease. Additionally, through the Sapotim Lida Program, Interplast supported personnel from the National Prosthetics and Orthotics Service to join with the Inclusive Gymbad program to undertake prosthetics and orthotics service outreach as well as training for local clinical personnel.

- **Produced 22 pieces of online educational content** which provided approximately 5,712 online training opportunities. Eight webinars were presented live and will be available for on-demand viewing on our platform hosted by educational partner, Praxhub. Interplast collaborated with our specialist medical volunteers to deliver these webinars, and included a special series which highlighted the incredible work of our local partner surgeons across the Asia Pacific region in recognition of Interplast's 40th year.

This series included presentations from surgeons in Solomon Islands, Fiji, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan, and included dynamic Q&A sessions with the audience. Overall, 1,077 people, from



across 35 countries and of multiple clinical professions, participated in these webinars.

- **Developed and launched ten educational videos and three long-form modules**, resulting in 4,635 views globally at the time of publication.
- **Awarded scholarships to six recipients** to participate in a variety of activities, conferences and placements in Australia. Recipients travelled from Bhutan, Fiji, Indonesia, Solomon Islands, and Sri Lanka. In total, the scholarships included hospital placements and three conferences. More information on our Scholarship recipients is available on page 19.
- **Proudly launched the Dr Tim Proudman Scholarship for Professional Development**, awarded to Dr Sonam Jamtsho. Dr Sonam is Bhutan's first plastic surgery trainee. This scholarship has allowed him to undertake a 12 month placement in Adelaide at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

## Towards Zero: An Integrated Approach To The EMSB

With half the world's population relying on open flames to cook, stay warm and light their homes, fire-related accidents are common.

Globally, hundreds of thousands of deaths are caused by burns annually, with the vast majority occurring in low and middle income countries. Additionally, for every person who dies because of burns-related injuries, many more survive with permanent disfigurement and disability.

Without immediate access to appropriate management of severe burns, burn injuries are left to heal themselves. This process results in burn scar contractures, which often limit mobility and can result in life-long disability.

To address the burden of burns-related injury in the Asia Pacific region, Interplast partners with the Australian Government and the Australian & New Zealand Burn Association (ANZBA) to deliver EMSB Program in partner countries. Focusing on the first 24 hours of care after a severe burn, the course looks to enhance patient outcomes during a time of significant trauma.

### EMSB Program Overview

- Run at Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Fiji during April/May 2023.
- 40 program participants.
- Delivered by a specialist Interplast team comprising three burns nurses and two plastic and reconstructive surgeons.
- Delivered in collaboration with seven Fijian faculties – with the ultimate aim that the program will be delivered entirely by local specialists.

A key feature of all Interplast programs is our commitment to building sustainable medical outcomes for the communities we serve. The 2023 program held in Suva, Fiji, will positively impact the people of Fiji through:

- Developing a Pacific-based faculty of EMSB providers who can run the course with limited support from Australia. This model ensures that the EMSB Program is led by leaders with locally relevant knowledge and experience in burns care and prevention.

- Investing in the skills development of Fijian medical personnel to manage severe burns in the first 24 hours and understand the importance of timely referrals.
- Improving the accessibility of the program and ensuring that medical personnel from outer regions can access the course to provide optimal burns care to communities in under-resourced locations in Fiji.

We know from feedback received in 2023 that the EMSB Program continues to be of great importance to our partners.

*“This course is an eye-opener, especially in managing patients from the outer peripheries and referring them to major hospitals.”*

## The Diabetic Foot: A Growing Burden In The Pacific

Unfortunately, a delayed presentation to hospital can have significant long-term impacts on the health and wellbeing of an individual. For those with diabetic foot wounds, the result can be negatively life-changing and in some instances fatal.

Individuals in Solomon Islands with diabetic foot wounds often present to hospital so late that amputation is needed to save their life. At the National Referral Hospital in Honiara at least 60% of inpatients on the general surgery ward have severe diabetic foot wounds.

While life-saving, amputation can increase the risk of further complications, challenges and costs. If

people with diabetic foot wounds were identified early, amputation can be prevented. During 2022 – 2023, Interplast has been building upon the exceptional work of Motivation Australia to help improve diabetic foot care in the Pacific.

Professional development of local clinicians is pivotal to sustainable capacity building of diabetic foot care services in the Solomon Islands. As part of these efforts, two nurses from the National Referral Hospital, Roselyn and Jordanna – both leaders in the area of diabetic foot care – were supported by Interplast to travel to Alotau, Papua New Guinea as part of an Interplast team, to deliver the Keep Moving diabetic foot care training package to local clinicians.

By supporting Roselyn and Jordanna to undertake this work, we are working with our colleagues in Solomon Islands to support more nurses and health workers in diabetic foot care. Ultimately, this will have positive impacts on patients and may ultimately lead to a reduction in amputations.







## Female Leaders: Shaping Their Future

Since our formation in 1983, Interplast has been a strong advocate for advancing the leadership of women within their chosen profession.

This year Interplast had the privilege of working alongside Almah Kuambu; Technical Advisor of the National Orthotics and Prosthetics Service (NOPS) with the National Department of Health in Papua New Guinea. Almah is an incredible leader and wonderful individual carrying much responsibility.

Almah is a qualified Prosthetist Orthotist and leads a team of 22 personnel across eight clinics, spread throughout Papua New Guinea. Almah is hard-working, optimistic and a tireless advocate for people with disabilities.

As a person living with a disability herself, Almah is passionate about advocating to improve prosthetic and orthotic services in Papua New Guinea, particularly for women and girls. Reflecting on her own experiences accessing NOPS services for her lower limb prosthesis, Almah agrees with research suggesting that women in Papua New Guinea find it much harder to access health services than males in the same situation.

This year, Interplast has partnered with NOPS to deliver the Sapotim Lida Program, funded through Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The aim of the Sapotim Lida Program is to strengthen women's leadership in health services in Papua New Guinea.

NOPS and Interplast will contribute towards this through:

- The development of a strategic plan for NOPS

- Training of NOPS personnel in gender equity, disability and social inclusion
- Direct support for Almah in her role in leader of NOPS
- Advocacy activities to support International Women's Day
- Outreach to West Sepik province aiming to increase access to NOPS services for all people, particularly women and girls.

This program builds upon the quality work of Motivation Australia before it joined with Interplast in November 2022. Together, we are able to positively expand the reach of female leaders like Almah within the region to improve local capacity and capability.

## Building Clinical Momentum Through Scholarships

Interplast believes that quality and accessible healthcare should be available to all, including patients who are vulnerable and excluded from health services because of demographic and geographic factors.

In line with this core belief, Interplast believes that accessible healthcare can only be achieved through the provision of a sustainable, competent clinical workforce. As such, Interplast is determined to provide a variety of sustainable and long-term workforce development opportunities to personnel across surgical, anaesthetic, nursing and allied health specialties. Since 1983, Interplast has facilitated approximately 11,700 medical training opportunities for our international colleagues,

including over 100 training opportunities in Australia and New Zealand.

Scholarship support encourages travel beyond local borders for workshops, conference attendance and longer-term placements. It also leads to inter-country collaboration and skill exchange to strengthen clinical service delivery in partner countries.

During 2022 – 2023, Interplast was delighted to support six scholarship recipients to participate in a variety of conferences and placements in Australia, and beyond. Recipients represented their home countries of Bhutan, Fiji, Indonesia, Solomon Islands and Sri Lanka.

Scholarships awarded over the course of the past 12 months have allowed:

- Hospital placements at Ballarat Base Hospital, the Royal Children's Hospital in Victoria, and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in South Australia.
- Attendance at the RACS Annual Scientific Congress in Adelaide, the ANZCA Annual Scientific Meeting in Sydney, and the International Symposium on the Diabetic Foot in The Netherlands.
- Of the scholarship recipients; four are male, two are female and comprise plastic surgery trainees, a general surgeon and anaesthetic registrars.

### Dr Scott Siota

Dr Scott Siota is a general surgeon based at the Honiara National Referral Hospital in Solomon Islands. Dr Siota has been participating in clinical teaching and practical training with Interplast volunteers for the past thirteen years in Solomon Islands. Dr Siota has attended advanced skills workshops in Samoa and Australia and has participated in an observational placement with Interplast in New Zealand.

From observing and assisting in Interplast surgical procedures, Dr Siota now performs many plastic and reconstructive operations independently. In 2018, Dr Siota became the first Solomon Islander to perform a cleft lip repair as the primary surgeon. Dr Siota also plays a critical role in the local coordination of Interplast visits to Solomon Islands.

Interplast surgeons Dr Zac Moaveni and Dr Kirk Williams have been elated to work with Dr Siota and see his skills develop in plastic surgery. Dr Moaveni spoke highly of Dr Siota.

*“It’s a privilege to be part of the story of the first generation of reconstructive surgery in Solomon Islands. Many more lives will be positively affected by this gentle surgeon.”*



He was awarded the Marshall International Scholarship to attend the 2023 RACS Annual Scientific Congress and presented at the conference alongside colleagues from Bhutan, Fiji, and Sri Lanka. Interplast was instrumental in supporting his further attendance at the 9th International Symposium on the Diabetic Foot held at The Hague, Netherlands.

The symposium, held once every four years, is the largest and most prestigious meeting worldwide devoted to lower extremity problems in diabetes. As Dr Siota reflected at the time:

*“Solis flag is flying among 89 countries around the globe in Amsterdam, Netherlands at the ISDF 2023. Australia, New Zealand and Solomons represent the Pacific. So blessed to be part of this opportunity - creating new networks in healthcare.”*

Interplast remains committed to providing world-class clinical education to our partners across the Asia Pacific region and is proud to support Dr Siota on his journey towards clinical excellence.

## **Dr Sanjeet Raman**

Dr Raman is a plastic surgical trainee based at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWMH) in Suva, Fiji, where he is one of three local surgeons training in plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Dr Raman has been participating in clinical teaching and practical training with Interplast volunteers since 2017, where he first assisted Interplast volunteers as a first-year registrar. Most recently, Dr Raman played a crucial role in supporting Interplast to deliver two consecutive trips to Fiji and has begun supporting the EMSB Program delivered by Interplast volunteers and faculty from the CWMH.



He was awarded the Marshall International Scholarship to attend the 2023 RACS Annual Scientific Congress.

### **Dr Nadesan Paheerathan**

Dr Paheerathan is a Senior Registrar in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery based at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka. He is currently in his second year of post-graduate surgical training in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the largest tertiary care centre in the country. There he treats a wide range of elective and emergency surgical patients, particularly trauma, which is the leading cause of hospitalisation in Sri Lanka.

He was awarded the Marshall International Scholarship to attend the 2023 RACS Annual Scientific Congress.

### **Dr Sonam Jamtsho**

Dr Jamtsho is a General Surgeon based at the Phuntsholing Hospital in Bhutan, where he is the only trainee plastic and reconstructive surgeon in the country, and once he completes his training, will be Bhutan's first plastic surgeon. Dr Jamtsho has been participating in clinical teaching and practical training with Interplast volunteers since 2015, where he was instrumental in securing recognition of the need for locally delivered plastic and reconstructive surgery in Bhutan. Dr Jamtsho plays a critical role in the local coordination of Interplast visits to Bhutan and has been closely mentored by Interplast volunteers.

During the last few years, Dr Jamtsho has undertaken plastic and reconstructive surgical fellowships at the Ganga Hospital in India, the Kirtipur Hospital in Nepal and is currently undertaking a fellowship at the Queen Elizabeth

Hospital in Adelaide, Australia. Many of these training attachments were undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He is the inaugural recipient of the Dr Tim Proudman Scholarship.

### **Dr Dian Mumpuni and Dr Ovi Karamoy**

Dr Mumpuni and Dr Karamoy are Anaesthetic Registrars at Airlangga University, Surabaya, Indonesia.

They were interested in joining the scholarship program to undertake placements in Australia that would expose them to the provision of anaesthesia in a different environment. Additionally, as the scholarship has been running since 2004, Dr Mumpuni and Dr Karamoy sought to follow in the footsteps of their superiors and mentors who are alumni of the program.

The scholarship program has made a positive improvement to the anaesthetic cohort in Surabaya, Indonesia and to the Australian anaesthetists who participated in the placement. The scholarship recipients reported that they were exposed to new values and ways of working during their observerships that they will take back to Surabaya and implement amongst their cohort and peers to better individualise patient care.

Dr Mumpuni identified interdisciplinary teamwork as a key takeaway from her experience.

*"The teamwork [such as the] discussion between the surgeon, the nurses and also the anaesthetist is good. I think that's [one of the other things], not only the medical things or the anaesthesia knowledge, that we have to bring back to Surabaya."*

Both doctors were awarded the Ballarat-Surabaya Anaesthetic Scholarship.

# STRONGER HOSPITALS: ESSENTIAL FOR QUALITY CARE

The World Health Organisation estimates that 134 million adverse events occur each year in hospitals in low and middle-income countries, contributing to 2.6 million deaths annually as a result of unsafe care.

Clear policies, organisational leadership capacity, data to drive safety improvements, skilled health professionals, and effective involvement of patients in their care, are all needed to ensure sustainable and significant improvements in the safe provision of healthcare.

It is for these reasons that Interplast continues to respond to partner requests that support the strengthening of hospitals and clinical institutions throughout the Asia Pacific region.

Beyond the direct patient care and workforce development initiatives implemented in 2022-2023,

Interplast has specifically worked with eleven hospitals and service providers to develop and drive the improvement of their systems and processes.

Highlights included:

- Developing and delivering country-specific disability inclusion and awareness training to 190 participants in Fiji, Kiribati, and Vanuatu. With each training session, Interplast aimed to improve the awareness of clinicians in participating hospital to types of disability and how individuals experiencing disability face barriers when accessing healthcare.







- Co-designing a Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) training package with the Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation and Fiji Womens' Rights Movement. Across 12 training sessions on inclusive health systems, 250 members of the Fijian Ministry of Health were supported to undertake this essential training.
- Delivery of GEDSI training to 21 facilitators and participants of the Inclusive Gymbad program in Papua New Guinea – an innovative approach to development involving sports and disability service providers.
- Working alongside Ministry of Health and Medical Services personnel in Solomon Islands to draft and implement a service protocol for diabetic foot care at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara as part of the Luk Afterem Legi project.
- Supporting NOPS of Papua New Guinea to establish and roll out a disability module within the electronic National Health Information System, and undertake a review of NOPS policies and procedures including those related to safeguarding and inclusion.
- Working with the inaugural multidisciplinary Diabetic Foot Care Services Committee at the Milne Bay Provincial Health Authority in Alotau, Papua New Guinea to finalise development and implementation of a diabetic foot care protocol.

# SYSTEM STRENGTHENING: A LONG-TERM APPROACH

Globally, 5 billion people lack access to safe, affordable surgical and anaesthesia care. 143 million additional surgical procedures are needed each year to save lives and prevent avoidable, life-long impairment.

The need for systemic change to address significant issues is evident. Interplast continues to work alongside governments to create lasting change.

Therefore, in the 2022-2023 financial year Interplast participated in partnerships meetings in six partner countries, including:

- Bhutan
- Fiji
- Nepal
- Papua New Guinea
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga

These essential meetings with various levels of government, health ministries, leaders of public health systems, universities and hospital department heads were designed to re-establish priorities after a long period of remote work only, due to the impact of COVID-19.

Additionally, Interplast provided strategic advice, partnership support, and administrative and technical assistance to partners in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands to strengthen their policy settings.

Through a number of activities, Interplast has supported strategy development in the areas of diabetic foot disease, rehabilitation services and prosthetic and orthotic services. Specifically, Interplast supported the development of two strategic documents, the National Disability and Rehabilitation Action Plan in Fiji and the National Diabetic Foot Disease Strategic Plan in the Solomon Islands. Additionally, in Papua New Guinea,

Interplast has supported the National Department of Health to develop and expand orthotic and prosthetic services within hospital settings and the broader community, and has begun supporting partners in Alotau to establish and implement a diabetic foot care service protocol and continue monitoring of diabetic foot disease services in Milne Bay.





## Towards Sustainable Health Systems: Pacific Collaboration

Building upon our strong relationships within the Pacific, Interplast was delighted to attend the Directors of Clinical Services Meeting and the Pacific Heads of Nursing and Midwifery meeting in Fiji during late August 2022.

With the theme being Closing the Gap Towards Achieving Universal Health Coverage, and meeting topics covering areas such as clinical governance, education and research, health workforce, health emergencies and regional clinical services updates, this important event allowed Interplast's Chief Executive Officer to hear first-hand from our clinical and nursing colleagues about ways in which Interplast can support them.

The Pacific Heads of Nursing and Midwifery meeting was especially positive, due to the launch of the first edition standards for Perioperative Nursing in Pacific Island Countries (PICTs) Manual and Online training package.

The manual was put together collaboratively - Consultants from Health Educational Learning Partnerships, the RACS - Pacific Islands Program, and the Pacific Community (SPC) with funding support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Former Program Coordinator of the SPC Clinical Services Program Ms Mabel Tai, shared at the launch that the journey of the perioperative nursing began in 2015.

*“Our Pacific perioperative journey has laid a solid foundation for the future. From humble beginnings we now have nurses soon to qualify with a post graduate qualification, we have a professional organisation, and we are here to celebrate the publication of the first edition of Standards for Perioperative Nursing in PICTs.”*

The perioperative nursing journey also witnessed the establishment of the Pacific Islands Operating Room Nurses Association which is an officially registered association and is a member of the International Federation of Perioperative Nurses.





# MEASURING OUR EFFECTIVENESS: OUR COMMITMENT TO MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Interplast places monitoring, evaluation and learning at the centre of all program planning, design and implementation. Our monitoring and evaluation framework guides a whole-of-organisation approach to measuring impact, informing what our programs have achieved, and identifying where improvements can be made, so that resources are targeted towards areas where they have maximum benefit.



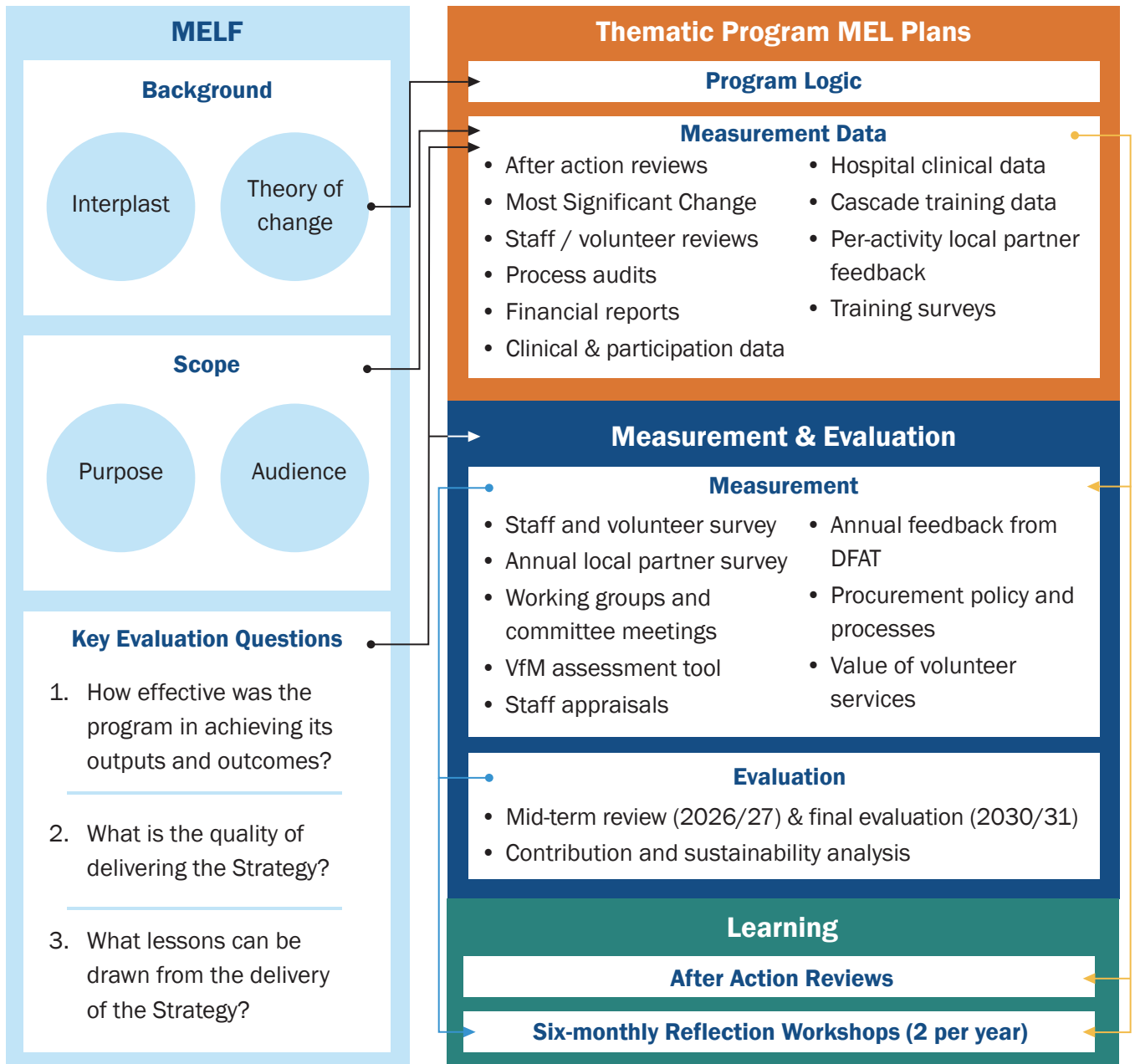
The Interplast Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework was established to understand the effectiveness and appropriateness of Interplast's strategy on its intended outcomes, and to capture any unexpected outcomes (both positive and negative). Furthermore, the framework also aims to enable accountability to Interplast stakeholders and allow for the organisation to continuously improve our work and make evidence-based decisions. Importantly, the framework shaped the 2022 – 2023 process for ongoing measurement, evaluation and regular learning opportunities.

The chart on the next page demonstrates Interplast's approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning.

While 2022 – 2023 saw the continued roll out of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework by embedding it into our processes, two major evaluation projects stood out during the past year.

## Evaluating Interplast's Impact in Papua New Guinea

With independent consultants engaged by Interplast, the evaluation reviewed Interplast's Papua New Guinea program from 2016 – 2021, and was informed by interviews of medical personnel, volunteers, patients and their families, together with Interplast management.



The evaluation found that:

- Interplast’s Papua New Guinea Country Program had made a positive impact on the lives of patients; enabling them to participate in work and community activities.
- Training of surgical and other medical professionals had led to improvements in the

skills of local health professionals who had participated in both in-country programs and Interplast’s online learning programs.

- Access to surgical and related care for women and girls, and people with disabilities could be improved, and this should be a focus for Interplast into the future.

- Turnover of local personnel in Papua New Guinea continues to be a challenge for program sustainability, however there was recognition that Interplast continues to proactively engage with our Papua New Guinea counterparts to address this challenge.

The findings of the evaluation have already been embraced by Interplast and form part of our long-term programmatic approach to building surgical capacity and access in Papua New Guinea.

## Allied Health Thematic Evaluation: What Works?

In addition to our formal evaluation of Interplast’s Papua New Guinea Country Program, Interplast commissioned a review of our Allied Health Programming from 2012 – 2022.



Again, by engaging independent consultants, the evaluation was designed to highlight both the successes and challenges of our allied health focus across four key countries.

The evaluation found:

- Interplast’s allied health programs have had overwhelmingly positive clinical outcomes for patients in partner countries, particularly in improving and restoring physical function.
- Targeted skills development offered by Interplast had benefited allied health professionals and improved their skills and patient care, and that the model of inter-disciplinary care modelled by volunteers teams has led to a more collaborative environment between clinical specialities.
- Challenges remain in gauging impact and effectiveness of allied health practice in the focus countries due to the lack of longer-term measurement of clinical outcomes.
- Sustainability of service continues to be a challenge in partner countries due to the limited allied health workforce development beyond what is offered by Interplast.

Underpinning Interplast’s approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning are three key questions – asked regularly in 2022 – 2023 and will continue to be into the future. How effective was the program in achieving desired outputs and outcomes? What is the quality of delivering the strategy? What lessons can be drawn from the delivery of the strategy?

If Interplast continues to answer those questions with honesty and openness, we will continue to deliver exceptional programs for our partners across the Asia Pacific region.



# ACCESS FOR ALL: GENDER EQUITY & DISABILITY INCLUSION

## Gender Equality: A Human Right

Interplast has a moral and ethical obligation to uphold and promote all human rights through our work. Gender equality is an essential part of sustainable development to address the disproportionate impact of economic, social and environmental stress on women and girls.

Progress towards gender equality has the potential to lead to substantial health, social and economic gains both for clinicians and patients. Interplast recognises that the under-representation of women in leadership positions in healthcare may lead to less attention and poorer understanding of the health needs specific to women.

In many contexts, access to female providers is an important determinant of women's health. A gender diverse workforce is better able to understand the diverse needs of patients, and ultimately to provide enhanced care.

At an organisational level, Interplast is guided by our Gender Equity Strategy (2021 - 2026), which is operationalised through annual Gender Equality Operational Plans. Our programmatic gender focus encourages Interplast to:

- Support hospitals to update policies and practices as they related to gender
- Deliver activities designed to overcome barriers for patient access
- Provide mentoring and training for female clinicians
- Support women to attend leadership and clinical networks
- Deliver training to hospital staff in collaboration with local gender organisations.

The 2022 - 2023 year saw our annual gender equity priorities reflected, not only within our whole programming portfolio, but in specific initiatives.

## Ballarat-Surabaya Anaesthetic Scholarship

Recognising that female clinicians in partner countries may face additional barriers to accessing leadership roles and educational opportunities, compared with their Australian and New Zealand colleagues, Interplast is committed to a portfolio of scholarships to help fulfill career aspirations for female clinicians.

The Ballarat-Surabaya Anaesthetic Scholarship is just one example to support Interplast's strategic objective of building a diversified work force to improve surgical equity amongst the most vulnerable populations by providing targeted professional development opportunities for female anaesthetists and registrars from Surabaya, Indonesia.

Further detail of this year's scholarship recipients can be found on page 19 of this report.



## Introducing Motivation Australia

In November 2022, Interplast formally welcomed Motivation Australia into our organisation to expand our essential work throughout the Asia Pacific region.

For more than 15 years, Motivation Australia proudly worked with partners in the Pacific and beyond to uphold the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and promote access to the health, disability, rehabilitation and assistive technology sectors.



As the organisation evolved from its initial start-up to a highly respected international development agency, the purpose of Motivation Australia was unwavering – to ensure all people can enjoy their full human rights and participate in family and community life.

With the shifting trends in international development, Motivation Australia's Board determined that the best way to deliver its vision and mission was to partner with another highly regarded development organisation with shared values and a commitment to supporting people with disabilities throughout the Asia Pacific region.

## Becoming stronger together

Having worked alongside Motivation Australia for some time, Interplast was honoured to be considered by Motivation Australia's Board and members as the best-aligned organisation to continue the delivery of their exceptional work.

By partnering with Interplast, the vision of both organisations was upheld, the mission of Motivation Australia honoured and directly aligned to that of Interplast.

Under the guidance and leadership of Interplast, Motivation Australia's programming work continues as an extension of Interplast's allied health care. Most importantly, the rights of people living with disability will be upheld through a shared commitment to deliver locally-led development initiatives.

In bringing Motivation Australia into the Interplast family, Interplast benefited from:

- Gaining exceptional staff who bring significant development and allied health expertise



- Building valuable relationships with institutional and private donors, including the World Health Organisation and the Canadian Development Organisation
- Expanding our network across the Asia Pacific region to enhance existing programs offered
- Enhancing our focus on locally-led and disability-inclusive development – both essential for organisations that provide such important services in developing communities.

As the two teams came together in November 2022, work began immediately to bring the best of both organisations together; creating a stronger institution that will have greater positive impact throughout the region.

### Humble beginnings to giant impact

Kylie Shae OAM, founded Motivation Australia after working for over a decade for Motivation Charitable Trust in many developing countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. With the help of an initial group of people committed to the work, Kylie registered and started Motivation Australia in February 2007 with support from the UK organisation.

Since then, Motivation Australia grew and expanded its focus from wheelchairs, to include prosthetics and orthotics in 2012, and assistive technology more broadly in 2016.





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## VOLUNTEERS: RECOGNISING OUR BEST

From the very first meeting to discuss the establishment of Interplast, to our first overseas surgical procedure and every program since including our most recent, Interplast volunteers are amongst the very best.

Having changed direction during the worst of COVID-19 as the pandemic altered our ability to provide in-country services, our highly-skilled volunteers were finally able to travel overseas again from mid-way through the 2022-2023 financial year.

Volunteers continue to be the heart and soul of Interplast; including our plastic and reconstructive surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and allied health professionals. Without their continuing determination and passion Interplast could not achieve its mission.

During 2022-2023, Interplast volunteers:

- Returned to delivering in-country clinical services and training and mentoring
- 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
- 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.

Just as Interplast wouldn't have existed in 1983 without the dedication and passion of volunteers, the organisation would not be what it is today without the exceptional individuals who give freely of their time and talent.

We acknowledge the following individuals who supported clinical delivery over the past twelve months:

### Surgeons

Anand Ramakrishnan

Andrew Castley

Benjamin Norris

Carly Fox

Craig Quarmby

Damian Marucci

David Morgan

Graham Sellars

Kirk Williams

Peter Maloney

Rob Coren

Siddharth Karanth

Sonam Jamtsho

Zac Moaveni

Sanjeet Raman

Kiran Nakarmi

Nadesan Paheerathan

Scott Siota

Simon Thomson

Damien Grinsell

Mark Moore

### Nurses

Dianne Efleet

Jordanna Lajama

Kim Harris

Lauren Harrower

Mary Jane Laing

Melinda Pacquola

Nika Bennett

Norma Schwalger

Rebecca Schrale

Roselyn Matakai

Sally Mitchell

Samantha Jervios

Sarah Stott

Simone Clarke

Suzanne Thomas

Tanya Lockley

Robyn Price  
Annette Tarabaras  
Melanie Anthony  
Loren McLeod  
Jane McLure  
Jan Rice

### Anaesthetists

Alan Goodey  
Christopher Higham  
David Thomas  
Ian Hogarth

Margaret Walker  
Moirra Rush  
Paul Goggin  
Rob Buckland  
Sarah Goetz  
Suzy Cook  
Sally Tsang  
Michelle Horne  
Philip Ragg  
David Pescod  
Hosim Prasai Thapa  
Amanda Baric  
David Tsang

Victor Yi  
Supan Jayakody  
Matthew Blair  
Ben Hallett

### Allied Health

Darcy O'Neil  
Elizabeth Ward  
Hannah Van Tuil  
Jenny Ball  
Megan Fitzgerald  
Melissa Parkin

Penny McMahon  
Suzanne Caragianis  
Tom Fitzpatrick  
Natasha Layton  
Sarah Florisson  
Amanda Taylor  
Elizabeth Barr  
Kate Hillier

### Other Profession

Dan Florisson



# PARTNERSHIPS: COLLABORATION FOR A BETTER WORLD

Interplast wishes to acknowledge the incredible individuals, groups and business who, each year, join us in raising funds and promoting the work of our organisation. It is these supporters who make it possible to bring life-changing care to so many across the Asia Pacific region. We thank each and every one of them for the difference that they make.

## Corporate and Philanthropic Partners

Interplast is supported by some of Australia & New Zealand's most respected corporate and philanthropic partners, who demonstrate their ongoing commitment to providing essential care and capacity building across the Asia Pacific region.

In 2022 – 2023 we wish to thank and acknowledge:

- Australian Catholic University (ACU)
- BDO
- Device Technologies
- EFEX
- Johnson & Johnson Medical
- MinterEllison
- PolyNovo
- The Noel & Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation
- The Orloff Family Charitable Trust
- OPC Health
- Össur
- Stryker
- Therapist Support Laboratory
- Victor Smorgon Charitable Fund

We also thank the many private donors, small businesses, charitable foundations and others who choose to donate to Interplast. Without you, our mission could not be achieved.

## Introducing PolyNovo

Following a successful collaboration to benefit a Fijian patient in April 2023, Interplast is delighted to officially welcome PolyNovo as a valued corporate partner.

Successful surgeries using PolyNovo's NovoSorb® BTM product, coupled with PolyNovo facilitated education to nursing and medical staff at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Fiji, showcased the importance of working collaboratively with corporate partners to meet the specific needs of our in-country partners.

We look forward to a long and successful partnership with PolyNovo as we seek to reduce the impact of burns injuries throughout the Asia Pacific region.





## Lifebox Australia & New Zealand

Lifebox Australia and New Zealand (Lifebox ANZ) is a partnership between the Lifebox Foundation, Interplast, 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.

Globally, Lifebox continues to make surgery safer by:

- Training 12,000 healthcare providers in safer surgery and anaesthesia
- Distributing 33,400 pulse oximeters to frontline providers across 116 countries worldwide

Interplast remains delighted to be part of this collaborative approach to ensure safer surgery, not only in the Asia Pacific region, but around the world.

## Introducing Össur

Having previously supported Motivation Australia, Interplast is delighted to recognise Össur as our newest corporate partner – a partner as committed to quality care as we are.

A global leader in orthopaedics, Össur are working with us to help provide essential prosthetic and orthopaedic technology to meet the needs of people



accessing Interplast services. We are also thrilled to be working alongside their teams on a range of fundraising and workplace giving initiatives.

Most recently, Össur supported an Interplast team to deliver first-of-its-kind training in Alotau, Papua New Guinea. Focused on diabetic foot care services, the training aims to reduce the burden of amputation in Papua New Guinea due to the prevalence of diabetes.

Unfortunately, diabetes increases the risk of amputation by 10 – 20 times, with this being an increasing challenge in Papua New Guinea. This training will build patient referral pathways, clinical documentation, procurement, data collection and other elements of high quality, effective service provision. Together, we are changing lives.

## Industry Partners

Interplast 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 2022 – 2023.

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

### **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 part of it, Interplast is able to continue and broaden our life-changing work.





# COMMUNITY PARTNERS: PASSION MAKES POSSIBLE

Interplast exists and continues to provide essential surgical 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 and individuals who fundraise for us and promote our work in their communities.

## Scaling New Heights: A Trek to the Top of the World

For Dr Rebecca Heah, stepping up took a whole new meaning in the past year as she joined an expedition team to climb Mount Everest. This was Rebecca's final of the seven summits quest to climb the highest mountain on each of the seven continents.

Joined by her father and several friends for the trek to Base Camp, Rebecca continued to the summit of Mount Everest, raising funds for Interplast with every step along the way.

For Rebecca, a well-deserved rest awaits ahead of another monumental decision – whether to take on the Seven-Seven challenge. This new challenge would see her add the world's highest volcanic peaks to her already impressive climbing records.

Whatever her decision, we wish Rebecca every success in her future pursuits and sincerely thank her for stepping up to support Interplast's work across the Asia Pacific region.





## Operation Happiness: Building a Healthier Bhutan

Interplast has some truly incredible volunteers who give so much of their time and talent. One such volunteer, is Dr Tim Proudman, Interplast's Bhutan Country Coordinator and one of our talented plastic surgeons.

Earlier this year, Tim, with significant support from his wife Susanna, their family, colleagues and friends, hosted a cocktail event at their home in Adelaide to help fund our vital work in Bhutan. Tim and many of our South Australian based volunteers built a network of support among local businesses and individuals who generously sponsored the event. An initial fundraising goal of \$50,000 was soon passed, with the final tally just over \$113,000!

Funding from this amazing initiative allowed the Interplast team to return to Bhutan in June 2023, and will contribute to a further visit in the next financial year. Our profound thanks to Tim, Susanna and his amazing supporters.

## Turia Pitt: Our Own Celebrity Apprentice

Turia Pitt has been our proud ambassador for 10 years, and was thrilled to see the impact of her most recent fundraising for Interplast from her time as a contestant on Channel 9's Celebrity Apprentice.

Her experience as an apprentice under the guidance of Lord Sugar and his advisors helped Interplast return to Samoa during the year, where caseloads had built up significantly since COVID-19 prevented our teams from travelling internationally.

Turia's impact was profound for people like John.



John was born with a cleft lip and palate that impacted his speech, ability to eat and his general health. For treatment, he had to travel to the Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital in Apia from the opposite side of the island. This was a familiar journey for John's dad, as his own cleft lip and palate was repaired there by Interplast in 1990.

Like his father before him, the Interplast team alongside local surgeon Dr Mayday Fanueli were able to successfully repair John's cleft lip.

John is one of 32 people who received life changing surgical treatment on this recent visit to Samoa. Turia summed up the feelings of the whole Interplast team, saying that *"seeing the impact this has made on people's lives has been pretty epic."*

Our heartfelt thanks again to Turia and to all the generous businesses and individuals that donated to her recent fundraising to enable this vital work in Samoa.

# ROTARY: CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER FOR 40 YEARS

Interplast was established in 1983 as a joint project between Rotary District 980 (now 9800) and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Without Rotarians, Interplast would not exist in our current manner, and thousands of individuals throughout the Asia Pacific region would not have had access to life-changing care.

Today, 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 ensuring surgical and related healthcare is available to those in need.

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

- The dedicated Rotarians who volunteer as Interplast District Chairs 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 past District Governors who sit on the Interplast Rotarian Committee, providing strategic and highly valued advice to the Interplast Board and management team on matters related to Rotary.
- The four past District Governors who are Company Members – responsible for electing the Board and holding it accountable for good governance.
- 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, and we take this opportunity to thank Rotary for their 40 years of changing futures with Interplast.

Interplast is grateful to the many Rotary Clubs and Districts which generously supported Interplast in the 2022-2023 financial year. Rotarians and friends of Rotary also continued to make generous individual donations to Interplast's life-changing work.

## District 9455

Dalkeith  
Freshwater Bay  
Morley  
Northam  
Osborne Park  
Welshpool

## District 9465

Kenwick  
Margaret River  
Victoria Park  
Willetton

## District 9510

Clare  
Gawler  
Goolwa  
Loxton  
Morphett Vale  
Port Augusta  
St Peters  
Waikerie

## District 9560

Ayr  
Bundaberg City Daybreak  
Bundaberg Sunrise  
Mackay West  
Maryborough Sunrise  
Monto  
Rockhampton North  
Walkerston

## District 9620

Bribie Island  
Honiara  
Ipswich City  
Wynnum & Manly

## District 9660

Armidale Central  
Cobar  
East Maitland  
Gloucester  
Gunnedah  
Morisset

Nelson Bay  
Walcha

### **District 9675**

Concord  
Corrimal  
Fairy Meadow  
Ingleburn  
Rose Bay  
Shellharbour City  
Sydney Inner West  
West Wollongong

### **District 9675**

Ingleburn Probus Club

### **District 9685**

Hunters Hill  
Kurrajong North  
Richmond  
Penrith Valley  
Roseville Chase  
Ryde  
Springwood

### **District 9705**

Belconnen  
Cowra  
Gerrington Sunrise  
Goulburn  
Griffith  
Pambula

### **District 9780**

Ararat  
Ballarat East  
Ballarat West  
Cobden  
Colac West

Kardinia  
Kerang  
Portland  
Portland Bay  
Torquay  
Warrnambool  
Warrnambool Daybreak  
Warrnambool East

### **District 9790**

Eltham  
Lavington  
Mooroopna  
Preston  
Sunbury

### **District 9800**

Bacchus Marsh  
Central Melbourne-  
Sunrise  
Daylesford

### **District 9810**

Beaumaris  
Bentleigh Moorabbin  
Central  
Box Hill Burwood  
Doncaster  
Glen Waverley  
Huntingdale  
Manningham  
Maroondah  
Mont Albert & Surrey  
Hills  
Moorabbin  
Mount Waverley  
Nunawading  
Oakleigh Clayton  
Warrandyte Donvale

### **District 9820**

Casey  
Dromana  
Hastings Western Port  
Koo Wee Rup-Lang Lang  
Maffra  
Mitchell River  
Mornington  
Morwell  
Mount Eliza  
Mount Martha  
Phillip Island and San  
Remo  
Rosebud-Rye  
Somerville-Tyabb  
Sorrento  
Yarram

### **District 9830**

Claremont  
Devonport North  
Glenorchy  
Howrah  
Longford  
Salamanca  
Smithton  
Westbury  
Wynyard  
Youngtown

### **District 9920**

Auckland  
Auckland Harbourside  
Auckland South  
Howick

### **District 9930**

Ahuriri  
Ahuriri Sunrise

Cambridge  
Fairfield  
Frankton Te Rapa  
Greenmeadows  
Hamilton Central  
Hamilton East  
Hastings  
Havelock North  
Huntly  
Katikati  
Maketu  
Matamata  
Morrinsville  
Mt Maunganui  
Opotiki  
Otorohanga  
Paeroa  
Putaruru  
Rotorua North  
Rotorua West  
Stortford Lodge  
Taradale  
Taumaranui  
Taupo  
Tauranga  
Tauranga Sunrise  
Tauranga Te Papa  
Te Awamutu  
Te Kuiti  
Te Puke  
Tokoroa  
Turangi  
Waikato Sunrise  
Waipukurau  
Wairoa  
Whakatane

### **District 9999**

Ashburton Plains  
Mosgiel



## District 9820 Pave The Way To Tonga

What started as the vision of one Rotarian in a single club on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula soon became a collective effort to help Interplast return to Tonga for the first time since the emergence of COVID-19.

In an amazing collaborative effort, the eight Mornington Peninsula Clubs from Rotary District 9820 (Mt Eliza, Mornington, Mt. Martha, Dromana, Rosebud-Rye, Sorrento, Hastings and Somerville) came together to raise over \$55,000 to send a highly-skilled surgical team to Tonga in May 2023.

With this being Interplast's first visit back to Tonga since COVID-19, and with no specialist plastic surgeons available in the country, many patients had been waiting for long periods of time to receive surgical care for treatable conditions, including cleft lip and palate, tumours and cysts, congenital hand and foot anomalies, and burns injuries.

As a direct result of Rotary's involvement, during their visit to Tonga, the Interplast team conducted 39 life-changing surgical procedures, including the release of burn scar contractures on four year-old Spencer – a little boy who sustained severe burn injuries to his left arm and both feet during a house fire two years earlier.

Without this Interplast program, Spencer's burn injuries would have worsened as they formed thick, contracture scars that increasingly restricted bodily function, and his ability to complete simple movements like walking, running or carrying items.

As Interplast Chief Executive Officer, Cameron Glover said at the time, *"we cannot thank the Rotary Clubs of the Mornington Peninsula community enough for their generous contributions which have both immediate and long-term positive outcomes for the people of Tonga."*

Rotarians are people of action. This initiative by clubs working together was one of great action, and one of great success.





## District 9930 Changes Lives in Solomon Islands

Rotary District 9930 lies in the heart of the North Island of New Zealand. It is a land rich in history, agriculture, tourism, and technology. More than that, it is a land of nearly 1,400 Rotarians spread across 49 clubs.

Together they share a strong passion for Interplast's work and have been active supporters of the organisation, always going above and beyond. In 2023 they have again risen to the challenge of changing lives by supporting a program to Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Led by New Zealand Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, Dr Zac Moaveni, together with Dr Kirk

Williams and a dedicated team of nurses and anaesthetists, Interplast volunteers were able to:

- Undertake 51 patient consultations
- Perform 34 individual surgeries
- Train an additional 25 Solomon Islander medical personnel.

Local Solomon Islander surgeon, Dr Scott Siota sums up the impact of Rotary's involvement in this program when he says, *"a lot of smiles and tears of joy from families have happened in this week. Thank you to all who played a part in getting the team to Honiara."*

When Interplast sets out to change lives, we couldn't do it without Rotarians beside us. We are thankful for the continued dedication and generosity of Rotarians in District 9930.

# HONOURED MEMBERS: GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

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.

## Congratulations to our 2022-2023 Honoured Members

### Dr (John) Joseph McGuinness OAM

Dr John McGuinness has recently retired from clinical practice as a consultant anaesthetist. He worked at St Vincent's Hospital in Darlinghurst NSW since the 1960s. He did his first Interplast program to Solomon Islands in 1989 and at least one program almost every year since with multiple programs in some years. His total program involvement exceeds 30 mobilisations.

John has supported Interplast programs in Fiji, Kiribati, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Vietnam. In addition to his program involvement, John is an Associate Member of Interplast and served on the Development Committee from 1988 to 2015. He has actively participated in Interplast fundraising and has regularly presented on behalf of Interplast to many Rotary Clubs. In appreciation of his contributions to Rotary and Interplast, John was recognised as an 'honorary Rotarian'.

### Mr John Georgakis

Mr John Georgakis served as an Interplast Director for a period of nine years until his retirement in November 2019. During that period John also fulfilled the role of Treasurer and Vice President.

John was an active Director, regularly being seen within the Interplast office to:

- Provide mentoring and coaching support to the previous Chief Executive Officer
- Conduct internal audit activities to provide the Board with clarity and comfort
- Mentor junior finance staff within Interplast.

In addition to his finance and director functions, John was an active fundraiser on behalf of Interplast, regularly participating in fundraising initiatives including the Eureka Stair Climb, Black and White Balls and other smaller initiatives. John also assisted with strategic planning of fundraising activities in conjunction with the Interplast fundraising team.

Today, John maintains an active interest in Interplast and has assisted the Chief Executive Officer with strategic advice. He remains willing to speak on behalf of the organisation and advocate where invited.



# OUR ORGANISATION

## GOVERNANCE, COMMITTEES & STAFF

### Company Membership

#### **Dr Michael McGlynn OAM**

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
Nominee

#### **Dr Keith Mutimer AM**

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
Nominee

#### **Professor David Watters AM OBE**

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
Nominee

#### **PDG Marie Dorrington OAM**

Rotarian Nominee

#### **PDG Brian Guest**

Rotarian Nominee

#### **PDG John Dodd OAM**

Rotarian Nominee

#### **PDG John Barnes**

Rotarian Nominee

#### **Mr David Inglis AM**

Independent Nominee

#### **Professor Mark Ashton**

Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons  
Nominee

### Board of Directors

#### **Dr Kirstie MacGill**

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, Fellow Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Diploma in Anatomy, Master of Surgical Education  
*President (Nov 22 -)*

#### **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*

#### **Ms Emma Skinner**

Bachelor of Pharmacy  
*Director*

#### **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*

#### **Ms Amy McLeod**

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

#### **Dr Zachary Moaveni**

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, Fellow Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
*Director*

#### **Dr Philip Ragg**

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

#### **Mr Frank Micallef**

Bachelor of Business (Accounting), Master of Accounting, Grad Dip Ed, FCPA, FAICD  
*Director (Nov 22 -)*

#### **Dr David Morgan**

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, Fellow Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
*Director (Nov 22 -)*

#### **Mr David Wilden**

Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management, Masters of Business Administration  
*Director (Nov 22 -)*

#### **Mr Paul Sundberg**

Bachelor of Economics (Honours), Chartered Accountant FCA  
*Director – Ret'd Nov 22*

#### **Dr Michael McGlynn OAM**

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, Fellow Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
*President – Ret'd Nov 22*

## Committees

### Executive Committee

The Committee consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer meets

as required to provide strategic support to the Chief Executive Officer.

## **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 – Ret'd 22)
- Mr Peter Caldwell
- Mr Grant Chisnall
- Ms Amy McLeod
- Mr Frank Micallef (Chair – 2023)
- Dr Zachary Moaveni

## **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
- Dr Chris Bennett
- Ms Gillian Dickinson
- Dr Ian Hogarth
- Dr James Leong
- Associate Professor Michael Leung
- Dr Kirstie MacGill
- Dr Peter Maloney
- Ms Penny McMahon
- Dr David Pescod AO
- Ms Robyn Price
- Dr Anand Ramakrishnan
- Ms Leonie Simmons
- Ms Melissa Woods

## **Design, Monitoring & Evaluation Committee**

The Design, Monitoring & Evaluation Committee provides programming advice to

the Board; ensuring our work meets best practice design and evaluation guidelines.

- Ms Marie Dorrington (Chair)
- Professor David Watters
- Dr David Morgan
- Ms Noreen McGrath
- Dr Michael McGlynn
- Ms Joanne Oxbrow
- Mr David Wilden

## **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 (Chair)
- PDG John Barnes
- PDG Gerard Blizzard
- PDG Marie Dorrington
- PDG Linda McLerie
- PDG Ms Di North OAM

- PDG David Tolstrup
- PDG Murray Verso
- PDG Dr Iain Wakefield

## **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
- Ms Sharon Goldby
- 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 Ambassadors

- Ms Turia Pitt
- Mr Mike Rolls

## Interplast Staff

Staff as at 30 June 2023:

**Mr Cameron Glover**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Ms Alison Chan**  
Financial Accountant

**Ms Rebecca Dash**  
Head of Campaigns & Events

**Ms Janette Etherington**  
Coordinator – Rotary Engagement

**Ms Jess Hill**  
Director – International Programs

**Mr Peter Huggan**  
(Acting) Head of Finance

**Ms Zoe Martin**  
Equipment Assistant

**Ms Amanda Richmond**  
MEL Advisor

**Ms Leonie Simmons**  
Coordinator – Program Equipment & Resources

**Ms Dakota Warren**  
Coordinator – International Programs

**Ms Amanda Whitty**  
Head of Corporate Partnerships

**Ms Ainsley Hadden**  
Coordinator – Branding & Design

**Ms Kate Shortt**  
Head of Corporate Services

**Mr Daniel Noll**  
Partnerships Advisor

**Mr Tim Cleasby**  
Coordinator – International Programs

**Mr Shiv Nair**  
Head of Program Operations





# FINANCES

## Year in Review

Interplast recorded an operating loss of \$277,706 for the year ended 30 June 2023. While the loss was expected due to the increased costs associated with re-engaging with our partners post COVID-19, and a strategic decision by the Board to invest in future fundraising capability, Interplast continues to closely monitor our income and expenditure to ensure the ongoing sustainability and success of the organisation.

Although the worst of COVID-19 appears to be easing, the pandemic continues to impact fundraising initiatives for both Interplast and our supporters. The latter part of the financial year saw an increase in fundraising capacity and we anticipate that the year ahead will allow better return on investment for fundraising initiatives.



## Where the money comes from

- **Community & Corporate Support** is income received from the Australian public and corporations in the form of public donations, fundraising and bequests.
- **Rotary** income is earned from grants and donation receipts from Rotary clubs, and individual donations attributed to a donor's Rotary club and/or district.
- **DFAT Grants** are received directly from DFAT, ANCP and the RACS – Pacific Islands Program.
- **International Organisations** is income received from overseas corporations and trusts.
- **Australian Organisations & Trusts** is income received from other Australian organisations, trusts and foundations.
- **Other Income** is received from in-kind donations, interest and government support.

## Revenue



**Total revenue:** \$2,372,839

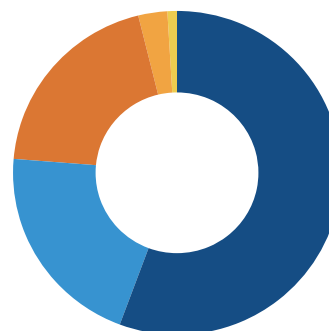
- **Community & Corporate Support** \$936,150 (40%)
- **Rotary** \$382,828 (16%)
- **DFAT Grants** \$319,002 (13%)
- **International Organisations** \$266,601 (11%)
- **Australian Organisations & Trusts** \$254,957 (11%)
- **Other Income** \$213,301 (9%)

## Where the money is spent

- **International Programs** includes all expenses and support costs associated with our in-country programs.
- **Accountability & Operating** costs cover administrative and other costs inherent in running an organisation; including staff time in the areas such as finance, administration, insurance premiums, rent, consultancy fees and other running costs.
- **Fundraising & Marketing** costs are 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.
- **Community Education** costs relate to increasing awareness and educating the Australian community on humanitarian and development issues.

- **Non-Monetary Expenditure** are costs that do not require the expenditure of cash such as depreciation and deferred charges.

### Expenditure



**Total expenditure:** \$2,650,645

- International Programs \$1,469,904 (55%)
- Accountability & Operating \$559,517 (21%)
- Fundraising & Marketing \$517,865 (20%)
- Community Education \$83,433 (3%)
- Non-Monetary Expenditure \$19,926 (1%)

## 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	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
For the year ended 30 June 2023.		
<b>43 Medical Specialists for a total of 506 days</b> 2022: 30 Medical Specialists for a total of 28 days	<b>394,956</b>	<b>20,658</b>
<b>37 Allied Health Specialists, Nurse Educators and Nurses for a total of 458 days</b> 2022: 24 Allied Health Specialists, Nurse Educators and Nurses for a total of 51 days	<b>182,568</b>	<b>16,950</b>
<b>Total Value of Volunteer Services</b>	<b>577,524</b>	<b>37,608</b>

# SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au) or by emailing [contactus@interplast.org.au](mailto:contactus@interplast.org.au). Further details are available in our Annual Financial Report which can be accessed at [interplast.org.au](http://interplast.org.au).

<b>Statement of comprehensive income</b>		For the year ended 30 June 2023.	
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>2023 (\$)</b>	<b>2022 (\$)</b>	
Donations & Gifts - Monetary	970,046	847,979	
Donations & Gifts - Non Monetary	43,079	-	
Bequests & Legacies	535,951	801,942	
Grants			
Government	319,002	434,336	
Other Australian	48,004	31,155	
Overseas	283,862	3,986	
Interest	163,074	14,900	
Other Income	9,821	1,234	
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>2,372,839</b>	<b>2,135,532</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<i>International aid and development programs expenditure</i>			
International Programs			
Direct international program costs	1,312,882	612,707	
Program support costs	157,022	246,815	
Community Education	83,433	99,215	
<i>Fundraising Costs</i>			
Public	485,413	380,063	
Govt, Multilateral and private	32,352	-	
Accountability and Administration	559,517	386,378	
Non-Monetary Expenditure	19,926	29,857	
<b>Total international aid and development expenditure</b>	<b>2,650,545</b>	<b>1,755,035</b>	
Domestic programs	-	-	
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>2,650,545</b>	<b>1,755,035</b>	
<b>Excess of expenditure over revenue / revenue over expenditure</b>	<b>(277,706)</b>	<b>380,497</b>	
<b>Total comprehensive (loss) / income</b>	<b>(277,706)</b>	<b>380,497</b>	



<b>Statement of changes in equity</b>	<b>Retained earnings (\$)</b>	<b>Donor restricted reserve (\$)</b>	<b>General reserve (\$)</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
For the year ended 30 June 2023.				
<b>Balance at 1 July 2021</b>	<b>3,225,970</b>	-	<b>1,200,000</b>	<b>4,425,970</b>
Comprehensive income for the year	380,497	-	-	380,497
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>3,606,467</b>	-	<b>1,200,000</b>	<b>4,806,467</b>
Comprehensive income for the year	(277,706)	-	-	(277,706)
Reserve Transfer	(1,808,321)	1,808,321	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>1,520,440</b>	<b>1,808,321</b>	<b>1,200,000</b>	<b>4,528,761</b>

<b>Statement of financial position</b>	For the year ended 30 June 2023.	
<b>Assets</b>	<b>2023 (\$)</b>	<b>2022 (\$)</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,641,279	5,102,988
Listed Investments received through bequest	65,036	59,730
Receivables	63,462	24,309
Prepayments	100,274	52,846
Inventories	-	1,561
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>4,870,051</b>	<b>5,241,434</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property and equipment	24,493	46,419
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>24,493</b>	<b>46,419</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>4,894,544</b>	<b>5,287,853</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Payables	162,735	225,788
Contract Liabilities	50,000	127,042
Provisions	143,212	118,301
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>355,947</b>	<b>471,131</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Provisions	9,836	10,255
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>9,836</b>	<b>10,255</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>365,783</b>	<b>481,385</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>4,528,761</b>	<b>4,806,467</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
General Reserve	1,200,000	1,200,000
Donor Restricted Reserve	1,808,321	-
Retained Earnings	1,520,440	3,606,467
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>4,528,761</b>	<b>4,806,467</b>

# AUDITOR'S REPORT



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Australia

## DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY ELIZABETH BLUNT TO THE DIRECTORS OF INTERPLAST AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

As lead auditor of Interplast Australia & New Zealand for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

1. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
2. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EB Blunt', written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Elizabeth Blunt**  
Director

**BDO Audit Pty Ltd**  
Melbourne, 10 October 2023

BDO Audit Pty Ltd ABN 33 134 022 870 is a member of a national association of independent entities which are all members of BDO Australia Ltd ABN 77 050 110 275, an Australian company limited by guarantee. BDO Audit Pty Ltd and BDO Australia Ltd are members of BDO International Ltd, a UK company limited by guarantee, and form part of the international BDO network of independent member firms. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.



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Australia

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Interplast Australia & New Zealand

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Interplast Australia & New Zealand (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial report, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

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

- (i) Giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

#### 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 registered entity 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 (including Independence Standards)* (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 registered entity'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.

#### Other information

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is information included in the directors report, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

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If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Responsibilities of responsible entities for the Financial Report**

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report**

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 the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website (<http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>) at:

[http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf)

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**BDO Audit Pty Ltd**

Elizabeth Blunt  
Director

Melbourne, 10 October 2023

# ACCOUNTABILITY

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 all other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

## 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. As an accredited agency and trusted recipient of funds,



Interplast receives support from DFAT through the Australians NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

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.

## 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](http://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 available at [www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints](http://www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints).

## 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-you-go (PAYG) submissions.

## 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](https://interplast.org.au). If you wish to lodge a complaint about Interplast, send an email to [admin@interplast.org.au](mailto:admin@interplast.org.au), phone our office on 03 9249 1231 or mail the office listed on the back cover of this report.

## Registered Office

Level 20, Collins Arch  
447 Collins Street  
MELBOURNE 3000 Australia

## Bankers

Westpac  
**ABN:** 59 006 155 193







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Achieving Interplast's vision of a world where anybody can access quality health care when they need it can only be done with the support of the many incredible individuals, groups and businesses who raising funds and promote the work of our organisation.

Make a donation today to ensure our life-changing work can continue tomorrow.

[WWW.INTERPLAST.ORG.AU/DONATE-NOW](http://WWW.INTERPLAST.ORG.AU/DONATE-NOW)

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