



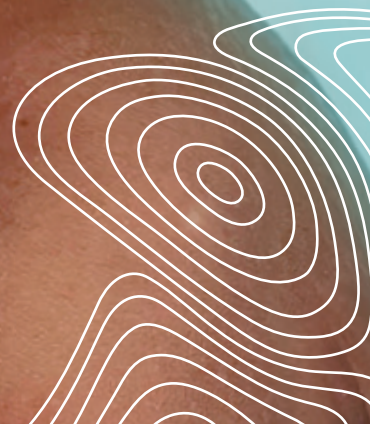
Interplast®

Changing lives & transforming futures



Annual Report

2023 - 2024



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About

History of Interplast

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

Today, Interplast provides life-changing surgery and health professional training across the Pacific and Asia, much of which is 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), is registered by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), and is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

Interplast acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.



Interplast is a member of ACFID and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct.



Interplast is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Interplast is a registered Charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

Vision

Quality and accessible surgical care, for all.

Mission

Enhancing quality of life through positive surgical and health outcomes.

Values

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

Guiding principles

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

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



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



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

Reflection

President's report

2024 was the year that the impact of COVID-19 on travel was reduced and we were able to return to visiting more of our partner countries, and they in turn could visit us.

I was privileged to meet our scholarship recipients at the September Australia & New Zealand Burns Association (ANZBA) Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress in Christchurch, listening to many of their presentations.

I later travelled to Papua New Guinea (PNG), where the Interplast team included Dr Jackson Nuli, currently PNG's only plastic surgeon, and Dr Kaycii Amoko, a local trainee, who both travelled from Port Moresby. This team model proved successful in many ways and is an initiative likely to be used again.

Our programs continue to support our four strategic aims. Clinical teams visiting the Pacific and Asia have provided exceptional patient care and, even more importantly, education and training to healthcare professionals. Many of our programs are primarily educational and are also becoming self-sustaining. The Emergency Management of Severe Burns (EMSB) course in Fiji trains people from across the region and now has a predominantly local faculty. This is an essential measure of its success.

The pandemic continues to impact healthcare in the Pacific. One of the main problems is a shortage of experienced staff. Many healthcare professionals and other skilled workers have moved in search of other employment. Our partners are asking Interplast for assistance with more training to address the shortage of skilled and experienced personnel, and programs and mentoring are aiming to help them with this.

In response to country requests, other programs have focused on improving health care services

and supporting systemic change. This has included programs to reduce the burden of diabetic foot disease, which often leads to prolonged hospital stays, time-consuming dressings and then amputations. Interplast is also supporting the development of the Pacific Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association (PRATA), recognising the critical role that rehabilitation and allied health personnel play in reducing preventable disability and in improving patient outcomes.

At the time of writing this report I would like to acknowledge the important contribution of our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Cameron Glover, who started working with Interplast in 2014. He became CEO five years later and has been a dedicated and visionary leader.

He successfully guided the organisation through the challenges of the pandemic, ensuring Interplast's staff and volunteers met our partners' requests for support when travel was not possible. He saw the opportunities created by Motivation Australia joining with Interplast, which greatly expanded our allied health and disability inclusion focus in the Pacific and increased Interplast's recognition within the international health community. He was a strong advocate for improvements to the increasingly significant monitoring and evaluation of our work, which has been invaluable to informing our approach and programming. Strong and positive relationships were central to his work and the board was understanding and accepting of his resignation as the Interplast CEO. We are very grateful for his unwavering commitment to Interplast and the enthusiasm he brought to the role, and we wish him the very best in the future, both professionally and personally.

All of the work that we do would not be possible without our volunteers. I would like to acknowledge both our clinical and our non-clinical volunteers,

including the committee members who give freely of their time and contribute so much to the organisation. The board has been very engaged this year and I would personally like to thank them for their support, for myself and the organisation. At the November Annual General Meeting we will farewell departing board members, Hayley Morris and Marie Dorrington. Both have served for nine years, and both have made significant contributions during their time. We are very grateful for their support and commitment to good governance.

Our local partners make essential contributions to the work of the organisation and are strong advocates for their communities. We are grateful for their commitment and dedication and for ensuring programs aim to meet local needs.

The Interplast staff work tirelessly to deliver our programs, support our partners, volunteers and donors and build and maintain the relationships with stakeholders. I thank them for their dedication and commitment to the organisation and our purpose, their recognition of the importance of evaluating our work in new ways, and also for their support of the interns from Australian Catholic University (ACU) who have joined us throughout the year.

Interplast, like many charitable organisations, is finding fundraising a challenge in the current financial climate. The staff have been working hard to diversify our sources of income and have been successful in obtaining new grants from DFAT, industry and other organisations to fund specific programs and initiatives.

In 2025 we will be reviewed for full accreditation with DFAT. The organisation has been preparing for this process over several years and is using it as an opportunity to strengthen our governance and operational processes, as well as how

we deliver effective, locally-led international development programs.

Interplast celebrated 40 years of service in 2023. We are currently finalising our new strategic plan so that we can deliver our work in a sustainable way into the future. This will allow us to fulfil "Our Promise" — the long-term plan developed in 2021 to support a vision of quality and accessible surgery for all and enhancing quality of life through positive surgical and health outcomes. Our strength derives from our respectful partnerships with all our stakeholders and our responsiveness to the needs and requests of our local partners.

As always, our future work is only made possible by the ongoing support of our dedicated staff and volunteers, our in-country partners, and our champions and supporters in Australia, New Zealand and beyond.

Sincerely,



Kirstie MacGill
President

Our reach

We were honoured to provide in-person support to the following countries:

1. Bangladesh
2. Bhutan
3. Fiji
4. Kiribati
5. Philippines
6. Papua New Guinea (PNG)
7. Samoa
8. Sri Lanka.

We also supported partners in the following countries, through remote channels:

9. Indonesia
10. Mongolia
11. Tonga
12. Solomon Islands.



Our impact

Direct Patient Care

- 432 Patients
44% female, 56% male
- 330 Consultations
- 200 Surgical procedures
- 208 Allied health treatments
- 80 Years old
Oldest patient
- 1 Week old
Youngest patient



- Repair of cleft lip and palate (28%)
- Reconstruction following trauma (24%)
- Reconstruction following burns injury (22%)
- Treatment of tumour (10%)
- Repair of other congenital condition (9%)
- Treatment of infective or degenerative condition (7%)

Workforce Development

- 1479 Training opportunities
- 533 Trainees*
137 men, 337 women, 59 undisclosed
- 15 Scholarships
5 men, 10 women

Health Systems Strengthening

- 7 Partnership agreements reaffirmed
- 7 Countries engaged in high-level meetings
- 4 Partners provided with strategic advice

Hospital Improvement

- 18 Partner hospitals

*Some data was not collected at larger lectures; actual number is likely larger.

Our year

This timeline shows Interplast activities that supported direct patient outcomes or in-person training of healthcare professionals. Read more about some of these programs, and activities that address other areas of our work later in the report.

Seleima is featured on the cover of this report. This is him and his mother before his cleft lip repair this year.



September 2023
Australian and New Zealand Burn Association Conference
Melbourne, Australia



October 2023
General and plastic and reconstructive surgery program
Apia, Samoa

November 2023
Emergency Management of Severe Burns training
Suva, Fiji

November 2023
Nurse education
Suva, Fiji

November 2023
Surgical program
Port Moresby, PNG

November 2023
National Orthotic and Prosthetics Service outreach program
West Sepik, PNG



January 2024
Bhutanese plastic surgical unit training
Kathmandu, Nepal

February 2024
Burns training
Colombo, Sri Lanka



March 2024
Plastic and reconstructive surgery program
Thimpu, Bhutan

March 2024
Plastic surgery skills workshop
Dhaka, Bangladesh

April 2024
Surgical program
Baguio, Philippines

April 2024
Surgical mentoring
Suva, Fiji

May 2024
Surgical program
Labasa, Fiji

May 2024
Nurse education workshop
Honiara, Solomon Islands

May 2024
Fiji National University allied health workshop
Suva, Fiji

May 2024
Ballarat – Surabaya Anaesthetic Scholarship visit
Ballarat, Australia

May 2024
RACS Annual Scientific Conference
Christchurch, New Zealand

June 2024
Emergency Management of Severe Burns training
Suva and Labasa, Fiji

June 2024
Plastic and reconstructive surgery program
Tarawa, Kiribati

June 2024
Surgical training
Wewak, PNG

June 2024
Surgical program
Honiara and Gizo, Solomon Islands

Programs

Patient care

It is easy to focus on the numbers — the number of individuals, the number of consultations and the number of procedures undertaken. However, we know that our impact is bigger than statistics alone.

While numbers help us to understand the reach Interplast is able to achieve, it is also helpful to understand what this impact actually looks like to the people for which it matters most. Below are some stories from patients and partners who have received outstanding care from Interplast volunteers and their local counterparts.

Meet Christina

Papua New Guinea

The Interplast team met Christina at the clinic on a Sunday, after she had travelled almost 500km south from her home in Madang to Port Moresby General Hospital (PMGH).



Christina presented with severe lymphedema on her right leg. Lymphedema occurs when an excess of lymph fluid accumulates under the skin, causing the limbs to swell. Typically, this is managed through pressure garments, which are worn to limit the fluid build-up and move fluid to areas that are draining well.

However, Christina had been unable to access pressure garments in her hometown and eventually the swelling grew severe enough that it limited her mobility — making it difficult for her to work and care for her young daughter.

Interplast volunteer surgeon Dr Siddharth Karanth identified Christina as a potential candidate for surgery to debulk her right leg, which would immediately relieve some swelling. With the assistance of local surgeon Dr Mitchell Masin, they were able to remove 14kg of excess fluid and tissue from Christina's leg.

Following her successful surgery, Interplast volunteer occupational therapist, Helen Scott, worked with the physiotherapy residents and hospital seamstresses to produce a compression garment that would support Christina's healing and prevent fluid from accumulating again. The garment is fitted in three sections that can be adjusted as Christina's leg changes size during her recovery.

Helen also encouraged the Rehabilitation Department to take pre-surgical and post-surgical circumferential measures of Christina's leg to track its reduction over time. As part of her lifelong lymphedema maintenance, Christina was also provided with education to be able to massage her body to help prevent and relieve fluid build-up.

The physiotherapy residents continued to monitor and adjust the garment, and Christina eventually progressed to walking short distances.

“For Christina... the results will be life-changing. She will be able to care more easily for her young daughter and her ability to participate in the workforce will be increased.”

Helen Scott, Interplast volunteer occupational therapist.



Meet Roten

Kiribati

Three years ago, Roten sustained severe burns when a flammable liquid exploded as he was singeing hairs off meat for cooking. The explosion burnt his left hand, wrist, elbow, axilla and neck, resulting in thick burn scar contractures and dislocating a joint in his left hand.

For the best outcome, Roten needed the expertise of multiple different disciplines.

“As he walks into our clinic, our team is already planning his surgery, his potential outcome, our limitations. Each of us have an important role to ensure Roten is able to live the life of every 15-year-old child.”

Joanne Oxbrow, Interplast volunteer nurse.

Interplast volunteer surgeons Dr James Savundra and Dr Mark Strahan operated on Roten alongside local surgeons Dr Sam Teeta and Dr Uriam Salomia, with Interplast volunteer Dr Lamour Hansell working with Dr Teraiman Kabong to provide

anaesthesia. Together, they released the burn scar contracture on Roten's armpit and elbow and closed them with a split skin graft and flap.

Meanwhile, Interplast volunteer physiotherapist Carolyn Asman fabricated a comfortable airplane splint for Roten, to keep his arm at a 90-degree angle. This splint is crucial in stretching the scar tissue and maintaining the shoulder's range of motion. Roten will wear this splint until his surgical wounds heal, and then at night for six months.

Carolyn also worked with the local physiotherapy team to plan Roten's long-term rehabilitation, including pulley exercises and stretches in the form of gentle sports activities, to give him the best chance at regaining as much mobility as possible.

“When I visit Roten on our last day in Kiribati, his eyes are bright, and he wears a cheeky grin. The type of smile all 15-year-old children should display... He is comfortable and excited about the progress he had made towards recovery with a little help from our team.”

Joanne Oxbrow, Interplast volunteer nurse.

Meet Ngawang

Bhutan

In 2021, Ngawang was in her bathroom at home, trying to heat water with the rod heater. Unfortunately, when she dropped the device, it fell onto her chest and arm. Her father had to break down the latched door to reach her, by which time she was badly burned and unconscious.

Over the next three years, she was in and out of hospital, but still couldn't access the complex reconstruction that she needed. Ngawang's injury took a toll on her mental health as well as her physical health. Previously an outgoing and diligent student, her parents noticed her become withdrawn and struggle with her schoolwork.



Wanting the best for their daughter, Ngawang's family had been ready to take out a significant financial loan to seek treatment overseas. Thankfully, they received notice that Interplast and the team at Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWRH) may be able to help.

When assessed by the Interplast team, Ngawang was found to have significant injury to her chest and arm, which was preventing her from growing and functioning as well as she could.

The team scheduled her for surgery and made the decision to use PolyNovo's NovoSorb® BTM to help her heal. This synthetic material is used to facilitate the growth of the dermis, prior to definitive wound closure. This was the first time BTM had been used in Bhutan, and it was an excellent teaching opportunity for the local surgical team.

After her surgery, Ngawang was referred to Interplast's visiting hand therapists and the local rehabilitation team to receive reinforcement of her chest dressings, compression garments, and splinting for her hand.

When asked about their hopes for her future, Ngawang's parents said they were very happy with her treatment and they hoped to see their daughter regain full use of her hand and grow to her full potential.



Workforce development

Workforce development is essential to building strong, sustainable health systems in our partner countries. Much of Interplast's work now focuses on training health professionals at the hospital level on a variety of topics, including:

- Nursing refresher courses
- Burns management
- Surgical skills
- Allied health skills
- Teamwork and task management.

Participants who attend training receive end-of-training surveys to reflect on impacts, lessons, and how they intend to make changes. In the last six months, Interplast has received more survey data from training participants than ever before — highlighting local voices and giving us the opportunity to learn from participants.

Encouragingly, participants in our training self-report a strong increase in skills, knowledge, and confidence. Read about the impact Interplast has had on the health workforce of our partner countries below.

Supporting surgical leadership

Papua New Guinea

During a surgical program in June 2024, an Interplast volunteer team visited Wewak to work alongside Dr Jackson Nuli, Head of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, and Dr Kaycee Amoko, Surgical Registrar at PMGH.

While there, local surgeons, nurses and anaesthetists of Boram General Hospital's Plastic Surgery Unit received training in surgical and perioperative skills. Education covered key aspects of the perioperative surgical framework, including:

- Collaborative pre-procedure reviews
- Risk assessments
- Intra-operative care
- Post-operative patient recovery.

This framework uses the World Health Organization (WHO) safe surgical checklist and a multidisciplinary team approach to encourage shared decision-making among clinical teams. By involving Dr Nuli and Dr Amoko, the clinical staff in Wewak were able to learn from local leaders in the field.

"This program was such a great opportunity for me, and for my registrar, Dr Amoko, to build our reconstructive surgical skills, as it was for the local surgical unit in Wewak."

Dr Jackson Nuli, Head of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery.

Local nurses reported learning new processes, such as team sign-in; and theatre procedures, such as using instruments, counting processes, maintaining sterility, and using fine sutures. Feedback from the local nurses was overwhelmingly positive. They appreciated the professionalism, communication skills, and ethical conduct demonstrated by the Interplast team.

"I personally want to comment on the check-listing of patients and the recovery of patient. It was professionally, ethically and excellently done. This will be taken on board for improvement in our setting."

Nurse Unit Manager, Boram General Hospital.

The Plastic Surgery Unit of PMGH also sought to decentralise the provision of plastic surgery in PNG

by running outreach visits to other provinces. The team is passionate about using their skills in other hospitals for patients waiting for their care, as their theatre time at PMGH is limited.

As well as providing learning opportunities for all clinical staff involved, this visit also established the service relationship between the PMGH Plastics Unit and the Boram General Hospital, with the East Sepik Provincial Health Authority committing to funding continuous outreach visits from Dr Nuli and his team.

Expanding physiotherapy skills

Fiji

In addition to hospital-based programs, Interplast extended its workforce development programs to Fiji National University (FNU) to enhance clinical education and training for the next generation of the medical workforce.

In May 2024, four volunteers from Australia were joined by Fijian physiotherapist Ms Akisi Dovibua, to provide extended scope of practice training to students and clinicians at the FNU and Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva. Their aim was to strengthen local skills and knowledge in areas critical to the community.

Learning material focused on physiotherapy care of hands, burns, and upper limb trauma; covering a huge range of topics across wound healing, burns management, clinical reasoning and speech pathology. Participants engaged with presentations, practical demonstrations, simulations, hands-on tasks, and mentoring with local staff at Colonial War Memorial Hospital. Over 230 participants, including third-year students from FNU and Ministry of Health employees, were in attendance.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with significant improvements in skills reported by both students and staff.

"If I get a patient with hand injury, I will know how to manage/treat the injury. If I get to see a burns patient, I will know the position in which the patient should be put in to prevent contractures."

Student Physiotherapist, FNU.

Additionally, trainers told us of the enthusiasm and positive participation of the students that lead to great outcomes for all involved.

"All participants were engaged, attentive and enthusiastic. None had used a sewing machine before, but all were able to make collars and compression garments by the end of the course, as well as a variety of splints from a variety of materials."

Jenny Ball, Interplast volunteer physiotherapist.





Developing leaders through scholarships

Regional

Scholarship opportunities help prepare the next generation of medical leadership. Interplast's scholarship recipients have the chance to attend and present at professional conferences, participate in workshops and observational placements at leading Australian hospitals, and build networks with other clinicians from across the region.

Our scholarship recipients report that these opportunities provide exposure to new technologies and work methods, promote cultural exchange and increase their confidence and commitment to their clinical area.

All scholarship recipients report on their experiences and share their knowledge with colleagues through education sessions, mentoring, and clinical demonstrations.

This financial year, Interplast awarded 15 scholarships to recipients from:

- Bangladesh
- Fiji
- Indonesia
- Nepal
- PNG
- Samoa
- Sri Lanka
- Tonga

Marshall International Scholarship

Awarded to:

- Dr Scott Buadromo, Surgeon, Fiji
- Dr Tanveer Ahmed, Surgeon, Bangladesh
- Reena Gauchan, Nurse, Nepal
- Mereia Seru, Nurse, Fiji
- Akisi Dovibua, Physiotherapist, Fiji

Recipients travelled to Melbourne to attend the ANZBA Annual Scientific Conference in September of 2023.

"...it is important that we have these opportunities to learn new things but also confirm that we already are doing things right and to the best of our ability."

Akisi Dovibua, physiotherapist, Fiji.

Recipients participated in lectures and networking sessions on areas relevant to their professions and challenges faced in their burns services. Each of the recipients were invited to present on burns care in their respective home institutions, which provided an opportunity for an exchange of ideas and innovative practice.

After the conference, participants completed a two-day attachment at the Burns Unit in the Alfred

Hospital, learning through exposure to ward rounds, clinical meetings and observations. Recipients shared that they had a deeper appreciation for the effectiveness of multidisciplinary teams in managing a burns service, and some recipients reported that they plan to replicate the systems and communication process back home.

Interplast-Lifebox Anaesthetic Scholarship

Awarded to:

- Dr Pauline Wake, Anaesthetist, PNG
- Dr Keno Temo, Anaesthetist, PNG

Recipients travelled to the Philippines to attend the Global Initiative of Children's Surgery 5th Annual Conference in February of 2024.

The conference was highly relevant to Dr Temo and Dr Wake's clinical expertise as paediatric anaesthetists, with the theme 'Children's Surgery as an Essential Component of Global Health: Eliminating Disparities'. The conference facilitated shared learning and networking opportunities between clinicians from low-middle income countries to promote contextually-relevant and sustainable change.

After the conference, recipients participated in a Lifebox Capnometry Workshop and visited the Cleft Centre in San Fernando Hospital, where Lifebox distributed capnometry monitors to support safe surgery for cleft lip and palate patients. These activities gave Dr Wake and Dr Temo further exposure to the different innovations being led through partnerships, not-for-profit organisations and Ministries of Health to eliminate disparities and transform the landscape of children's surgery worldwide.



Interplast International Scholarship

Awarded to:

- Dr Alamea Fulivai, Surgeon, Tonga
- Dr Dishan Samarathunga, Senior Resident in Plastic Surgery, Sri Lanka
- Dr Jackson Nuli, Head of Plastic Surgery, PNG
- Dr Mayday Faneli, Surgical Registrar, Samoa
- Dr Most Nurunnahar Begum, Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery, Bangladesh
- Dr Ravneil Singh, Senior Surgical Registrar, Fiji

Recipients travelled to Christchurch to attend the RACS 92nd Annual Scientific Conference in May of 2024.

The conference began with a Global Health session featuring organisations (including Interplast) and Pacific clinicians discussing clinical programs, health systems, and regional challenges.



Over the next few days, participants engaged with programs in plastic and reconstructive surgery, burns, craniofacial, and general surgery. Four recipients presented their own work, highlighting their unique challenges and achievements in their respective health systems.

“Thanks to networking, I’m able to pick up the telephone and call other specialists to help with different kind of cases that we get that I’m not really accustomed to.”

Dr Alamea Fulivai, Surgeon, Tonga.

Recipients connected with key Interplast surgeons in a different setting, allowing for ongoing mentoring, future planning, and introductions to Australian and New Zealand colleagues. A visit to Christchurch Hospital, hosted by Head of Plastics Dr. Dylan James, allowed them to discuss local challenges, tour the hospital, and exchange ideas to take back home.

“I will also be able to enlighten my residents and colleagues with the recent advances I learn through this

program to contribute for further development of burn plastic surgery in Bangladesh.”

Dr Most Nurunnahar Begum, Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery, Bangladesh.

This scholarship was made possible through the support of corporate and community supporters: PolyNovo, Avant Mutual, efex, Jan and Garry Hart and the Rotary Clubs of Mt Eliza, Dromana, Mt Martha, Mornington, Rosebud-Rye, Somerville-Tyabb and Sorrento.

Ballarat – Surabaya Anaesthetic Scholarship

Awarded to:

- **Dr Disa Edralyn**, Anaesthetic Resident, Indonesia
- **Dr Adriana Jardine**, Anaesthetic Resident, Indonesia

The 2024 Ballarat-Surabaya Anaesthetic Scholarship aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of two anaesthetic registrars from Universitas Airlangga

in Surabaya, through a series of educational and observational placements in Australia.

The scholarship was structured to maximise the learning opportunities for the participants. The components of the program included observer placements at Ballarat Base Hospital and The Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne, as well as attendance at the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane.

In their report, Dr Edralyn and Dr Jardine both highlighted the stark contrast in work hours between Australia and Surabaya, where more time for case planning, team discussions and knowledge-sharing practices was given in Australia. This supportive dynamic between team members would motivate the recipients to make changes in their home institutions.

“I was thinking we can’t make a big difference as registrars, but I want to look for innovative ways, even something little, to make a difference. We have the will, and the mindset already thanks to this journey, and hopefully will make a big impact in the future.”

Dr Adriana Jardine, Anaesthetic Resident, Indonesia.

The Ballarat-Surabaya Anaesthetic Scholarship opens doors for women anaesthetists to access learning opportunities and establish connections that will support them in a male-dominated field. Dr Edralyn and Dr Jardine were excited to share their learnings with their equally enthusiastic colleagues back home.

“We already have a timeslot for Zoom weekly report with all the registrars. Consultants at home asked us to explore certain procedures, as they want to know!”

Dr Disa Edralyn, Anaesthetic Resident, Indonesia.



Hospital improvement

The WHO 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.

Interplast continues to respond to partner requests that support the strengthening of hospitals and clinical institutions throughout the Pacific and Asia, to advise and support partners to:

- Write and implement clear policies
- Increase organisational leadership capacity
- Build effective data management systems
- Improve routine procedures and processes
- Effectively involve patients in their own care.

In addition to the direct patient care and workforce development activities delivered in partnership with 18 partner hospitals, this financial year, Interplast has worked with several hospitals and service providers to drive the improvement of their systems and processes.

Advancing preparations for new unit

Bhutan

Interplast has worked closely with the surgical and allied health staff from the Jigme Dorji Wangchuk National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH) for many years. One of our shared goals is the establishment of a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (PRS) Unit at the hospital.

In preparation for this new facility, Interplast has supported the training of a number of key staff who will be instrumental in running the unit.

Last year we supported Dr. Sonam Jamtsho, a general surgeon from the JDWNRH, to attend a year-long residential training at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Adelaide. This year he

returned to Bhutan and continued to work with hospital leadership and Interplast to prepare for the new unit.

Following his success, Interplast supported an additional six staff from the JDWNRH to spend a month in Kirtipur Hospital, Nepal. There, they studied the advanced plastic and reconstructive techniques they would need in the PRS Unit; learning from lectures, ward training, observations and hands-on experience.

“Each weekday morning, we start with normal morning classes/presentations by visiting consultant from abroad. Some twenty doctors visited Kirtipur Hospital in just one month time.

We started to move to the operations theatres to attend to our surgical lists. Although the workday typically ends at 3- 4pm, it may extend sometimes for extensive and complex surgical cases. Saturday is reserved for office work. There are numerous scheduled lectures, resident presentations, departmental reviews and so on.”

Scrub Nurse, JDWNRH.

The future clinical team for the PRS Unit then joined our visiting Interplast team on a program in March 2024. Our volunteers reflected that the six surgeons who attended the training in Nepal all demonstrated “commitment and skills beyond that of other counterparts.”

In the next financial year and beyond, Interplast will seek to continue supporting the establishment of the PRS Unit and strengthen the capacity of the JDWNRH to treat patients with complex reconstructive needs.





System strengthening

Globally, five billion people still lack access to safe, affordable surgical and anaesthesia care. It is also estimated that 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 government across the Pacific and Asia to create lasting change.

Forging effective partnerships

Regional

After resuming in-country activities in 2022, Interplast was able to reconnect with in-country partners face to face. This gave us opportunities to better understand each country's health system, facilities and workforce, and the impact the pandemic had upon them.

These visits included dynamic discussion with key local stakeholders, enabling Interplast to work with our partners to ensure that programs still addressed their priorities and were designed to succeed within their existing systems.

In this financial year Interplast undertook partnership visits to seven countries:

- Fiji
- Tonga
- Kiribati
- Vanuatu
- Samoa
- Bangladesh
- Sri Lanka.

These meetings engaged various levels of government, health ministries, leaders of public health systems, universities, and hospital department heads to assess current challenges and priorities and identify ways in which Interplast can provide support both immediately and in the medium and longer-term.

Additionally, Interplast provided strategic advice, partnership support and technical and administrative assistance to partners in PNG, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and a Pacific regional body to strengthen their policy settings. We supported the development of three strategic documents:

- The National Diabetic Foot Disease Strategic Plan in the Solomon Islands
- The National Orthotics and Prosthetics Service (NOPS) Strategic Plan in PNG
- The Pacific Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Association (PRATA) Strategic Plan in the Pacific region.

Furthermore, in 2024 Interplast was pleased to sign new or renewed formal agreements or

Memorandums of Understanding with partners in Sri Lanka, Kiribati, Bangladesh, PNG, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Mongolia to formalise the organisation's long-term commitments to equitable access to surgery and quality patient care in these countries.

Collaborating for stronger services

Pacific

Five years ago, Motivation Australia facilitated the first Pacific Rehabilitation and Mobility Conference, where attendees overwhelmingly supported the formation of a regional body to guide the rehabilitation and assistive technology sectors in common goals for the benefit of all nations. This regional body would later be called PRATA.

PRATA aims to strengthen regional collaboration, while respecting the diverse and unique contexts of each country.

In May 2024, Interplast partnered with The Pacific Community (SPC) to bring representatives from seven countries together in-person for the first time. Together, they discussed and planned for the future of PRATA.

Representatives spent two days finalising strategic plans, mapping workforces and sharing

information about their services. Investment in the process and hope for future outcomes was high.

“We all have similar challenges, and we need a vehicle to drive us forward. That vehicle is PRATA.”

Almah Kuambu, PRATA Co-Chair, PNG.

The workshop delivered a draft Terms of Reference for the association, a draft five-year strategic plan, and a multi-year workplan. This is an enormous step in efforts to strengthen this field throughout the Pacific.

Following the two days of workshops for PRATA, six more rehabilitation professionals joined from six more Pacific Island countries, who saw the value of PRATA as a regional body and expressed their desire to join. Encouragingly, this will see the association's reach grow to across most of the Pacific region.

Increasing capacity for burns care

Asia

In early 2024, Interplast carried out two significant programs in South Asia, aimed at enhancing burns care and capacity in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Both programs involved assessing existing facilities, providing targeted training, and developing strategic plans to address short, medium and long-term needs.

At the National Hospital of Sri Lanka in Colombo, the Interplast team worked with partners to assess and develop a five-year-plan for the Burns Unit. They also provided training to 42 local personnel, focusing on burns surgery techniques, wound care, and infection prevention.

The visit also included a comprehensive analysis of the current burns service — identifying issues, priorities, and opportunities for Interplast to support moving forward. These opportunities include building clinical capacity, improving clinical procedures and advocating to hospital management and government for further support in these areas.

“It has been a very successful trip with a good understanding of a range of issues that would help build the capacity of Burns Unit. Great engagement from the local team was admirable,”

Dr Dane Holden, Interplast volunteer surgeon.

Following this successful visit, another Interplast team conducted a similar program at the Sheik Hasina National Institute of Burns & Plastic Surgery (SHNIBPS) in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Alongside training for 112 senior staff nurses and 75 surgical clinicians, this visit also aimed to create a five-year strategic plan for burns

programming. This included running an EMSB course, surgical skills mentoring and allied health education to staff. The program also identified a National Burns Awareness Day and endorsed a multidisciplinary symposium to develop a National Burns Strategy.

Strengthening rehabilitation delivery

Fiji

Guided by the Disability Inclusive Health and Rehabilitation Action Plan, and funded through the Australian Government’s Fiji Health Program, Interplast supported local staff to facilitate three rehabilitation workshops across Fiji in March 2024.

These workshops were presented entirely by local staff and users of Fiji rehabilitation services, and engaged Ministry of Health staff to increase their understanding of rehabilitation principles and management techniques. With this learning, staff would be better able to manage the high client load and increase appropriate and timely referrals to rehabilitation services.

Interplast has also begun development of a national rehabilitation and disability services mapping and referral tool. This tool will be available to all health and disability service providers, and help them know:

- What services are available in geographic areas
- How to access and refer to these services
- What type of service they provide.

This tool will also enable services to provide more timely and appropriate referrals between government and non-government health services.

We look forward to completing this tool in the next financial year.

Gender equity & disability inclusion

Interplast is dedicated to promoting disability inclusion and gender equity in both our work and organisational culture. We recognise these as critical cross-cutting issues that impact all aspects of our programs and influence access to health care everywhere around the world.

Addressing gender equity in health services is essential for sustainable development. A gender diverse workforce supported by gender diverse leadership can better understand and respond to the unique challenge of women and girls, and ultimately facilitate better health outcomes for all patients.

Additionally, people with disabilities in low-income settings face significant physical and cultural barriers to accessing healthcare, which can severely impact their wellbeing. Ensuring their voices and perspectives are represented and valued as participants and providers of care is an essential step in increasing access.

This financial year, we continued to expand our programs to bridge gaps in inclusive health services, by responding to partners’ requests to develop non-clinical and clinical skills alike.

Disability inclusive rehabilitation services

PNG

In response to the rising prevalence of traumatic injuries and non-communicable diseases in PNG, Interplast is supporting NOPS in Port Moresby to strengthen their workforce, expand their reach, and secure vital resources as part of the multi-year Sapotim Lida Program.

The Sapotim Lida Program activities focus on increasing mobility, quality of life and participation



in family and community life for those living with disability in PNG. It also supports women’s leadership in the health sector by enabling women NOPS leaders to access professional development opportunities.

In this financial year, Interplast supported NOPS to conduct outreach visits to the West Sepik Province and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, where 15 individuals requiring assistive technology were assessed and shared their concerns and need for the establishment of local services.

The NOPS team also met with key provincial health personnel to advocate for the establishment of rehabilitation and assistive technology services in each province. These conversations will provide a foundation for the expansion of services and increased access across the country.

Additionally, due to a critical shortage of prosthetic and orthotic components across the country, 300 people needing assistive technology were unable to access devices. To assist NOPS’ ability to provide services to these people, Interplast procured 386 prosthetic and orthotic components.

Another significant achievement was development of the inaugural NOPS Strategic Plan for 2024-2028. This plan aims to increase access to high-quality, gender-equitable multidisciplinary services, and enhance the sustainability of service providers in the country. After peer review, the final draft of

the strategic plan was provided to the Department of Health and NOPS for official approval and launch later in 2024.

Finally, we were able to support the incorporation of NOPS data into the existing Electronic National Health Information System (eNHIS). Until 2024, NOPS has maintained two separate databases to record service user information and statistics, and service data has been recorded manually.

To ease this transition, NOPS and physiotherapy personnel received training on use of the new eNHIS module, which will be rolled out to seven NOPS clinics across the country. This centralised database will support NOPS to map client needs to deliver more effective and proactive services, and better advocate for funding.

Social inclusion training for health leadership

Fiji

In September 2023, Interplast partnered with the Australian Government and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) in Fiji to conduct pivotal Gender, Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) training.

This round of training targeted decision-makers and leaders, to ensure learning can be embedded in hospital systems.



The Fiji Women’s Rights Movement (FWRM) and the Fiji Disabled Persons Federation led 22 key staff of the MHMS through locally designed and delivered sessions. This approach allowed for context specific information to be discussed and enabled those accessing services to provide invaluable insight into their lived experience.

The training received enthusiastic feedback, with participants reflecting on the need to truly understand the ability of current services to meet the needs of all people.

“Power is knowledge, and the knowledge I’ve gained today it has really changed the way I will later on treat my patients with disabilities.”

Tailasa Lusebogivitu, physiotherapist, Labasa Hospital.

Amplifying reach through online training

Regional

Interplast decided to build on the success of these face-to-face GEDSI workshops to create an alternative option, which will make information accessible to a broader audience. An interactive training module was developed to replicate the education package into an online setting. This training will be hosted on Interplast’s Praxhub Platform (Praxhub).

Interplast has engaged Pacific-based organisations to provide subject-matter expertise, and produce video interviews of women, men, gender and sexually diverse people, and people with disabilities speaking about their experiences when accessing healthcare, and guidance on how this can be improved. These videos will be used within the module to deepen learners’ understanding.

Monitoring, evaluation & learning

Interplast places monitoring, evaluation and learning at the centre of all program planning, design and implementation.

Our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework guides our approach to measuring impact — informing what our programs have achieved and identifying where improvements can be made, so that resources are allocated for maximum benefit.

The 2023-2024 financial year saw the continued implementation and elevation of the framework. We collected more data from our partners and beneficiaries than ever before, which gave us greater ability to make contextually informed and evidence-based decisions, and further locally-led development. We then focused on integrating our learning from our activities. Our Annual Program Outcomes Report highlights the achievement of our outcomes against the 4 pillars, as well as areas for improvement.

Key lessons

Patient care

Interplast recognises that sustainable health outcomes cannot be achieved without supporting local health workforces to build their own capacity to provide surgery. Therefore, we no longer do surgical mobilisations without evidence of surgical capacity and an appropriate workforce to train.

Though we treated fewer than the target number of patients, currently there are no surgical programs that are not accompanied by a component of workforce development.

Workforce development

Workforce development has become the core of Interplast’s work. All bar two of Interplast’s

2023-2024 activities have included a workforce development component.

Much of Interplast’s work in this pillar is focused on training of health workers at the hospital level on a variety of topics. The main outcomes of these trainings are a reported strong increase in skills, knowledge, and confidence.

Hospital improvement

This pillar is the smallest focus of Interplast’s work currently, with fewer targeted activities focused on hospital improvement. However, key feedback from training participants has highlighted the need for increased effort on this area to support partners to embed learnings into their institutions.

System strengthening

A large portion of Interplast’s health system strengthening work is focused on rehabilitation and allied health. This includes the development of strategies and key documents, and supporting their implementation to ensure they are embedded in systems.

Interplast also dedicates resources to supporting the Pacific region’s allied health workforce through creating networks of professionals, mapping referral pathways and linking projects to existing rehabilitation services.



Acknowledgements

Volunteers

Beyond bringing health care to people and communities who may otherwise have to go without, Interplast volunteers also act as teachers, mentors, role models and advocates. Each one embodies our values of integrity, respect and collaboration, and without their continuing dedication, Interplast cannot achieve our mission.

This year, we welcomed 14 new volunteers, contributing to a total of 65 volunteers working on Interplast programs. Combined, they spent a total of 648 days providing care and education in the Pacific and Asia.

During 2023-2024, Interplast volunteers:

- Returned to delivering in-country clinical services and education
- Continued to provide remote mentoring and support to their international peers
- Assisted in the development of resources, policies and other essential initiatives
- Advised Interplast staff on program planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Served on our board, committees and working groups
- Advocated for and raised funds for our programs.

Interplast is proud to acknowledge the following individuals who supported clinical delivery over the past twelve months.

Allied health

- Katie Anjou
- Carolyn Asman
- Jenny Ball AM
- Suzanne Caragianis
- Megan Fitzgerald
- Sarah Florisson
- Tania Morris
- Helen Scott
- Teresa Squires
- Hannah Van Tuil.

Anaesthetists

- Lamour Hansell
- Ian Hogarth
- Raymond Hui
- Alan Goodey
- Indu Kapoor
- Lindsay McBride
- Kirsten Morgan
- Inamul Rahiman
- Jon Stacey
- David Thomas
- Michael Whitehead.

Nurses

- Vanessa Dittmar
- Diane Elfleet
- Skye Giannino
- Louise Higgins
- Christine Hunter
- Mary Jane Laing
- Denis Levin
- Tania Lockley
- Josephine Luke
- Sally McKelvie
- Jennifer McKinnon
- Sally Mitchell
- Simone Nast-Clarke
- Julie O'Donnell
- Joanne Oxbrow
- Melinda Pacquola
- Jan Rice
- Daisy Sargeant
- Rebecca Schrale
- Norma Schwalger
- Pip Tesselaar
- Christine Wheeler
- Heidi Woods Lehnen.

Surgeons

- William Blake
- Andrew Castley
- Russell Corlett
- Raminder Dhillon
- Peter Haertsch AM
- Dane Holden
- Siddharth Karanth
- James Leong
- Michael Lo
- Anna-Marie Loch-Wilkinson
- Kirstie MacGill
- Damian Marucci
- Michael McCleave
- Mark Moore AM
- Benjamin Norris
- Craig Quarmby
- Anand Ramakrishnan
- James Savundra OAM
- Mark Strahan
- Dean White
- David Ying.

In-country partners

The work delivered by Interplast would not be possible without the long-standing support and commitment of our local partners — organisations with whom we work in the delivery of our programs. These include ministries of health and other government departments, hospitals and other clinical settings, universities and other training institutions, and local community-based groups.

These organisations, and the dedicated people who work for them, collaborate in the design and delivery of our programs to ensure they address local priorities. We recognise and deeply appreciate their expertise, knowledge and commitment to our shared goals.

Below is a list of the organisations with whom Interplast partnered in our program countries in the 2024 financial year.

Bangladesh

Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burns and Plastic Surgery, Dhaka.

Bhutan

- Ministry of Health of Royal Government of Bhutan
- Jigme Dorji Wangchuk National Referral Hospital, Thimphu.

Fiji

- Fiji Ministry of Health
- Colonial War Memorial Hospital, Suva
- Tamavua Twomey Hospital, Suva
- Labasa General Hospital, Labasa
- Fiji National University, Suva.

Kiribati

- Ministry of Health
- Tungaru Central Hospital, Tarawa.

Mongolia

Mongolian Society of Anaesthesiologists.

Nepal

Kirtipur Hospital, Kathmandu.

Papua New Guinea

- PNG National Department of Health
- East Sepik Provincial Health Authority
- Wewak General Hospital, Wewak
- Port Moresby General Hospital, Port Moresby.

Philippines

- Provincial Government of Benguet
- Benguet General Hospital, Benguet.

Samoa

- Samoan Ministry of Health
- Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital, Apia.

Solomon Islands

- Ministry of Health and Medical Services
- Gizo Hospital, Gizo
- Honiara National Referral Hospital, Honiara
- Dreamcast Theatre.

Sri Lanka

National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo.

Vanuatu

- Vanuatu Ministry of Health
- Port Vila Central Hospital, Port Vila.

Corporate partners

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

Interplast wishes to acknowledge the incredible individuals, groups and businesses who join us in raising funds and promoting the work of our organisation. We thank each and every one for the difference that they make.

In 2023-2024 we wish to thank and acknowledge:

- Australian Catholic University
- Avant
- Device Technologies
- efex

- Johnson & Johnson Medical
- MinterEllison
- Mun Global
- PanAust
- PolyNovo
- The Noel & Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation
- The Orloff Family Charitable Trust
- Össur
- Stryker
- Therapist Support Laboratory.

We also thank the many private donors, small businesses, charitable foundations and others who choose to donate to Interplast. It is these supporters who make it possible to bring life-changing care to so many.

Thanks to the skilled hands of the local surgical team, supported by Interplast volunteers, Nachain's polydactyly was corrected, and she can live her life with improved mobility and a brighter future.

Plans are already underway for future Interplast visits to Papua New Guinea. Interplast and PanAust are working closely with local community leaders and organisations to identify patients in need, and to ensure the program is accessible to those in the community who need it most.



PanAust

PanAust has generously supported our vital work since 2012, helping change lives across the Pacific and Asia.

This year, their invaluable support enabled an Interplast surgical team to complete a short program in East Sepik Province in Papua New Guinea, where they provided 17 life-changing surgeries and clinical training to 18 surgeons, nurses and anaesthetic support staff.

Among these patients, was 17-month-old Nachain.

Nachain presented with a condition called bilateral complex foot polydactyly, which gave her extra toes on both her feet. While her condition was not life threatening, her parents worried that as she grew, her ailment would affect her ability to walk and wear shoes, and later she could become the target of bullies.

PolyNovo

PolyNovo has generously sponsored a number of scholarships through Interplast. In September 2023, their support of the Marshall International Scholarship program sponsored four recipients to attend the ANZBA Annual Conference in Melbourne.

There, three participants from Fiji met with Polynovo representatives, including CEO Swami Raote. Earlier in the year, Fijian surgeons had enormous success using PolyNovo's Novosorb® BTM for the very first time in Fiji. Dr Scott Buadromo was one of these surgeons, who speaks highly of the experience and sees incredible potential in the product.

“Three trials in and we’ve seen very good results despite our conditions in Fiji being really challenging... It’s one of our trump cards in our arsenal of things we can deliver to our patients.”

Dr Scott Buadromo, Surgeon, Fiji.

We're excited to grow this partnership with PolyNovo and look forward to continuing collaboration to improve outcomes for patients and increase education opportunities for clinicians in the Pacific and Asia.

Community partners

Interplast's ability to deliver transformative surgeries and allied health treatments is made possible by our dedicated network of supporters. We deeply appreciate the support of passionate individuals and community groups who fundraise and advocate for our cause.

workplace, inspire your community, or go solo, your contribution is powerful.

Be the One to set up a fundraiser on our brand-new fundraising platform. Click the button or scan the QR code and get set up in three easy steps.

You could be the one

Be the one who makes a difference with Interplast! Go the extra mile in a marathon, ask for donations in place of birthday gifts, or dream big with your own ideas; your efforts can transform futures.

Fundraising with Interplast is a meaningful and fulfilling way to contribute to the lives of others across the Pacific and Asia, and we're here to support you every step of the way! Whether you want to fundraise with friends, involve your

1. **Register** your fundraiser and we'll send you helpful resources and tips to make your fundraising successful.
2. **Plan** your activity and use our resources to promote your campaign.
3. **Make a difference** and celebrate the fact that you are changing lives!

Be the 1



Rotary

Rotary Clubs and Districts continue to be integral to the mission of Interplast. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every Rotarian, Rotary Club and District dedicated to ensuring that surgical and related health care is available to those in most need in developing nations.

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

- Rotarians who volunteer as Interplast District Chairs or Champions
- Past District Governors who sit on the Interplast Rotarian Committee
- Past District Governors who are Company Members

Donating clubs for 2023-2024

District 9423

- Armadale
- Busselton-Geographe Bay
- Canning River (formerly Kenwick)
- Dalkeith
- Freshwater Bay
- Morley
- North Perth
- Northam
- Northbridge - WA
- Osborne Park
- Rockingham
- Victoria Park
- Welshpool
- E-Club of Western Australia.

District 9510

- Adelaide Central
- Barossa Valley
- Burnside
- Campbelltown
- Charles Sturt Grange
- Eastwood
- Encounter Bay
- Gawler
- Goolwa
- Henley Beach
- Hyde Park
- Loxton
- Mitcham
- Morphett Vale
- Northern Yorke Peninsula
- Port Pirie

- Rotarians who generously give their time and expertise as Directors of the Interplast Board
- Rotarians who donate to Interplast through their Club and District activities.

We are now sending a monthly newsletter to all Rotary Clubs to keep Rotarians everywhere updated on our work. Please contact Janette Etherington at janette.etherington@interplast.org.au or by calling +61 3 7042 5472 to join our mailing list.

Interplast is especially grateful to the many Rotary Clubs and Districts which generously supported Interplast in the 2023-2024 financial year. From those which contributed thousands of dollars, to those which donated several hundred – thank you all most sincerely.

District 9620

- Prospect
- Regency Park
- Robinvale Euston
- Somerton Park
- St Peters
- Taillem Bend
- Victor Harbor
- Waikerie
- Walkerville.

District 9560

- Ayr
- Bundaberg City Daybreak
- Mackay West
- Monto
- Walkerston.

District 9620

- Bribie Island
- Caboolture
- Honiara
- Ipswich City
- Jindalee.

District 9660

- Armidale Central
- East Maitland
- Gloucester
- Gunnedah
- Morisset
- Nelson Bay
- Port Macquarie West
- Walcha.

District 9675

- Corrimal
- Fairy Meadow
- Kembla
- Mount Druitt
- Shellharbour City
- West Wollongong.

District 9685

- Crows Nest
- Hunters Hill
- Ku-ring-gai
- Lane Cove
- Penrith Valley
- Springwood.

District 9705

- Cowra
- Gerringong Sunrise
- Griffith
- Pambula
- Wagga Wagga Koorringal.

District 9780

- Ballarat East
- Ballarat West
- Cobden
- Colac West
- Geelong
- Hamilton
- Kardinia
- Kerang
- Portland

- Torquay
- Warrnambool.

District 9790

- Eltham
- Lavington
- Mooroopna
- Pascoe Vale
- Preston
- Yea.

District 9800

- Bacchus Marsh
- Canterbury
- Caulfield
- Central Melbourne-Sunrise
- Chadstone-East Malvern
- Malvern
- Williamstown.

District 9810

- Beaumaris
- Bentleigh Moorabbin Central
- Box Hill Burwood
- Forest Hill
- Manningham
- Maroondah
- Mont Albert & Surrey Hills
- Moorabbin
- Mordialloc
- Mount Waverley
- Nunawading

- Oakleigh Clayton Huntingdale
- Rowville Lysterfield
- Warrandyte Donvale.

District 9820

- Casey
- Dromana
- Foster
- Koo Wee Rup-Lang Lang
- Maffra
- Mitchell River
- Mornington
- Mt Eliza
- Mt Martha
- Phillip Island & San Remo
- Rosebud-Rye
- Somerville-Tyabb
- Sorrento
- The Mulnot Foundation.

District 9810

- District 9830
- Glenorchy
- Launceston West
- Longford
- Salamanca
- Smithton
- The John Lewis Foundation.

District 9920

- Auckland East
- Auckland Harbourside

- Auckland Metro
- Auckland South
- Botany Downs
- Highbrook
- Howick
- Manukau City Sunrise
- Otahuhu
- Papatoetoe Central
- Parnell
- Somerville Howick
- Waiheke Island
- The Harold Thomas Rotary Trust.

District 9999

- Mosgiel.



Rotary Clubs partner to fund life-changing program

The Pacific Island nation of Kiribati has long been an Interplast partner — hosting 35 Interplast programs since 1986. Kiribati is also in Rotary District 9920, which extends from Auckland, New Zealand, across the Pacific.

It was a desire to help patients in significant need in her own District that led Interplast District Chair Shefali Mehta QSM on a quest to fund an Interplast team to visit the Tungaru Central Hospital in Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati.

In June 2024, 18 Clubs in District 9920, and the Harold Thomas Rotary Trust, all donated funds to deliver this program. After being delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the program ran this year and saw 20 life-changing surgeries performed, and 111 clinicians taking part in training activities.

From Australia, the Rotary Club of West Wollongong, the Rotary Club of Phillip Island & San Remo, the John Lewis Foundation attached to the Rotary Club of Launceston West, and Rotary District 9675 also chipped in to send the Interplast team to Kiribati. What an incredible collaboration!

Interplast sincerely thanks these amazing Rotarians for their determination, patience and generosity.

Rotary Club of Canning River reaches fundraising milestone

Interplast owes a huge debt of gratitude to the Rotarians past and present of the Rotary Club of Canning River (formerly Kenwick), near Perth in Western Australia.

The Club has run the single most successful fundraising campaign for Interplast over many years — so much so that total donations to Interplast have surpassed \$1,000,000! Part of this achievement is thanks to the network of businesses that Canning River has engaged. Their monthly donations raise at least \$60,000 for Interplast every year.

In the 2023-2024 year Canning River supported three different programs in South-East Asia:

- Training for six Bhutanese clinicians in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- A burns and reconstructive surgery skills workshop in Bangladesh
- A surgical program in Thimpu, Bhutan.

Thousands of patients have benefited from the dedication and generosity of the Rotarians in Canning River, and the amazing businesses which have supported Interplast through the Club for many years.

Honoured Members

Interplast’s Honoured Member recognition is designed to promote the accomplishments of distinguished supporters to the wider Interplast community, and to formalise an ongoing relationship with these valued individuals.

Interplast offers our gratitude and congratulations to the following 2023 - 2024 honoured members.

Ms Elizabeth Wright

Elizabeth Wright is a New Zealand Rotarian, and current Interplast District Chair in Rotary District 9930. In this capacity Elizabeth has been coordinating and organising fundraising efforts for Interplast since 2017. To date, her fundraising efforts have raised more than NZD \$150,000.

Her efforts have supported Interplast teams to travel to Fiji, Myanmar and Solomon Islands. She further self-funded trips with Interplast volunteer teams to both Fiji and Myanmar in order to capture content to share with the broader Rotary audience. As part of this initiative, she supported a New Zealand based videographer, Chris Hillock to accompany a surgical team to Fiji in 2018. His content became the basis of Interplast’s tax appeal that year. Most recently, Elizabeth raised a further NZD \$10,000 to purchase a specialist cleft training mannequin — a vital piece of training equipment used by Dr Semesa Matanaicake in Fiji to train surgeons from across the Pacific.

In addition to Elizabeth’s support and advocacy, Elizabeth has mentored other New Zealand based Interplast District Chairs across both the North and South Islands of the Country.

Ms Jenny Ball

Jenny Ball is a Tasmanian-based physiotherapist, specialising in upper limb injuries and burns treatment. Having first volunteered with Interplast in 2000, Jenny has since undertaken 16 overseas programs on behalf of the organisation, in both Fiji and Nepal.

Jenny is a regular participant in clinical programs.

Dr Tim Proudman

Tim Proudman was a South Australian based specialist plastic surgeon who commenced volunteering with Interplast in 2015. He served as the Country Coordinator for Bhutan and was instrumental in shaping the success of the program.

Following the emergence of COVID-19, Tim commenced remote mentoring of Bhutan’s first plastic surgeon, Dr Sonam Jamtsho. With the support of the Interplast office, he arranged for Sonam to continue his surgical training in both India and Nepal, and facilitated a 12-month paid placement at Adelaide’s premier hospitals in 2023, to ensure Sonam received world-class training.

Further to Tim’s commitment to clinical excellence, he hosted two major fundraising events for Interplast, raising in excess of \$200,000 to support our work in Bhutan. He was a regular presenter at Rotary Clubs, corporate partners and community supporters, and regularly championed Interplast, including in relevant media publications.

Most recently, Interplast recognised Tim’s commitment to building surgical capacity by creating the Tim Proudman Scholarship for Emerging Surgeons. In 2023 this was rightly awarded to Dr Sonam Jamtsho.

Additionally, Jenny:

- Established the Allied Health Training Program delivered to final year physiotherapy students at FNU
- Is a member of the EMSB Faculty in Fiji
- Serves as member of both the Allied Health Working Group and Clinical Governance Committee
- Acts as Interplast's Allied Health focal point for the wider Pacific region.

Further to these commitments, Jenny has regularly developed teaching resources used by many Interplast Allied Health professionals and international partners. Together with Fijian physiotherapist Akisi Dovibua, Jenny has undertaken a pilot (under the auspice of Interplast) to better record burns injuries.

Finally, Jenny is a strong mentor to a number of international partners and has personally hosted them in her home, clinical setting and hospital in Tasmania at the request of Interplast.

In many cases, she has financially supported the funding short-falls to support international partners to attend global conferences, the most recent being to support a Fijian physiotherapist to travel to London for specialist hand training.

Ms Suzanne Caragianis

Suzanne Caragianis is a specialist hand therapist based in South Australia who began travelling with Interplast programs to Bhutan in 2014. As of this year, she has travelled with us on seven programs.

It was through Suzanne's advocacy to Interplast that Bhutan first became an official partner to the organisation.

Her dedication to the country and our partners have been evident in her organizing of high-quality fundraisers for our programs in Bhutan; raising in excess of \$200,000 alongside Dr Tim Proudman. She also privately funds Bhutanese therapists to travel overseas to undertake training in world-class facilities. Additionally, she also home-hosted Dr Sonam Jamtsho in Adelaide upon his arrival and coordinated his residence whilst he undertook further training.

In recognition of Suzanne's commitment to Bhutan, she has been recognised with honours by both the Australian Government and the Bhutanese Government, and the World Federation of Hand Therapists.

We also recognise the work Suzanne has done in facilitating and attending a number of high-level government meetings for Interplast's CEO.

Whilst Suzanne's work may be less public than some of the other honoured members, she is a strong advocate for Interplast and regularly presents on our behalf at Rotary Clubs, schools and other groups. She has also undertaken media engagements for Interplast upon request.

Associate Professor David Pescod

David Pescod is a Victorian anaesthetist who first volunteered with Interplast in 2003. He has since undertaken 23 overseas programs to countries.

In addition to David's clinical service to Interplast, he:

- Is the current Country Coordinator for Mongolia.
- Is an active member of Interplast's Clinical Governance Committee.

- Regularly supports funding applications through his connection to the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and ANZCA. In this capacity he has helped to facilitate over \$100,000 worth of funding.
- Wrote the textbook for Mongolian anaesthetists and regularly delivers clinical training through Interplast's connection to the Mongolian Society of Anaesthesiologists.
- Proactively supports the writing of Interplast's clinical guidelines, especially as they relate to safe anaesthesia, pain management, drug selection and clinical governance.

Perhaps David's most significant contribution, although harder to measure, is his willingness to connect Interplast with significant stakeholders and to develop a pipeline of anaesthetists for Interplast programs.

Mr Michael Butler

Michael Butler is a long-term support of Interplast. It is estimated that since his involvement began, Michael has facilitated donations in excess of \$500,000 through his networks.

In 2018, Michael introduced former CEO Prue Ingram, together with then Deputy CEO Cameron Glover, to the family offices of a number of significant supporters.

Beyond Michael's philanthropic pursuits, he briefly served on an Interplast fundraising committee and has provided strong support to past Interplast President, Keith Mutimer about engaging with family offices.

In the initial stages of the Supporter Engagement Committee, Michael had indicated a willingness to

serve on that body, but circumstances at the time prevented him from joining during its formative stages. Despite that, to this day, Michael still talks with Interplast's CEO and reviews submissions and concept notes upon request, providing strategic advice when called upon.

Whilst a relatively private supporter of Interplast, Michael is only too happy to facilitate introductions through his vast commercial network and recommend Interplast for consideration by those seeking to make philanthropic contributions.

Organisation

Governance

Company membership

Dr Michael McGlynn OAM
MBBS FRACS
RACS Nominee

Dr Keith Mutimer AM
MBBS FRACS
RACS Nominee

Professor David Watters AM OBE
MB ChB FRCS
(Edinburgh) FRACS
RACS Nominee

Professor Mark Ashton
MB. BS. MD FRACS
Australian Society of
Plastic 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

Board of Directors

Dr Kirstie MacGill
Bachelor of Medicine,
Bachelor of Surgery,
Fellow RACS, Diploma
in Anatomy, Master of
Surgical Education
President

Ms Hayley Morris
Bachelor of Arts
(Communication)
Vice President

Dr Philip Ragg
Bachelor of Medicine,
Bachelor of Surgery,
Fellow ANZCA
Vice President

Ms Marie Dorrington OAM
Bachelor of Arts,
Diploma of Education,
Diploma of Teaching
Secretary

Mr John Dodd OAM
Bachelor of Law and
Economics
Director

Dr Zachary Moaveni
Bachelor of Medicine,
Bachelor of Surgery,
Fellow RACS
Director

Dr David Morgan
Bachelor of Medicine,
Bachelor of Surgery,
Fellow RACS
Director

Mr Frank Micallef
Bachelor of Business
(Accounting), Master of
Accounting, Grad Dip
Ed, FCPA, FAICD
Director

Mr David Wilden
Graduate Certificate in
Public Sector
Management, Master
of Business
Administration
Director

its corporate governance responsibilities in relation to financial affairs and compliance with regulatory requirements.

- Mr Frank Micallef (Chair)
- Dr Kirstie MacGill
- Dr Zachary Moaveni.

Retired:

- Mr Peter Caldwell (November, 2023)

Committees

Executive Committee

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

Audit and Risk Committee

The objective of the Audit and Risk Committee is to assist the Board of Directors to discharge

- Mr Grant Chisnall (November, 2023)
- Ms Amy McLeod (November, 2023).

Clinical Governance Committee

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

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

Retired:

- Ms Melissa Woods (August, 2023)
- Associate Professor Michael Leung (March, 2024)

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 OAM (Chair)
- Dr Kirstie MacGill
- Ms Noreen McGrath
- Dr Michael McGlynn OAM
- Dr David Morgan
- Ms Joanne Oxbrow
- Ms Amanda Richmond
- Professor David Watters AM OAM
- 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 OAM (Chair)
- PDG John Barnes
- PDG Gerard Blizzard
- PDG Marie Dorrington OAM
- PDG Linda McLerie
- PDG Di North OAM
- PDG David Tolstrup
- PDG Dr Murray Verso
- PDG Dr Iain Wakefield.

Ambassadors

- Ms Turia Pitt
- Mr Mike Rolls
- Ms Sam Squiers.

Allied Health Working Group

The Allied Health Working Group provides expert 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 Katie Anjou
- Ms Jennifer Ball
- Mrs Shirley Collocott
- Ms Yvonne Fellner

- Ms Megan Fitzgerald
- Ms Sarah Florisson
- Ms Sharon Goldby
- Ms Kylie Harrison
- Ms Penny McMahon
- Ms Beth McNeish
- Ms Melissa Parkin.

Retired:

Ms Diana Francis (January 2024).

Staff

Employees

Interplast employees as of 30 June 2024 are as follows:

Cameron Glover
Chief Executive Officer

Jess Hill
Director – International Programs

Amanda Whitty
Director – Fundraising & Partnerships

Pat Huen
Head of Finance

Kate Shortt
Head of Corporate Services

Rebecca Dash
Head of Individual Giving

Shiv Nair
Head of Program Operations

Tim Cleasby
Coordinator – International Programs

Janette Etherington
Coordinator – Rotary Engagement

Ainsley Hadden
Coordinator – Branding & Design

Leonie Simmons
Coordinator – Program Equipment & Resources

Cara Stephenson
Coordinator – Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Dakota Warren
Coordinator – International Programs

Laetitia Chow
Donor Relations Officer

Alexandra Dawson
Finance Officer

Zoe Martin
Equipment Assistant

Belle McQuattie
Program Support Officer

Daniel Noll
Partnerships Advisor

Consultants

Kristen Tonkin
Donor Advisor

Interns

Josh Tonkin
Communications Intern

Aurelle Pinto
Volunteer Intern

Jessica Neville
Volunteer Intern

Stella Harrington
Volunteer Intern

Lara Adams
Volunteer Intern

Yakob Mathews
Volunteer Intern



Year in review

Interplast recorded an operating loss of \$1,523,463 for the year ended 30 June 2024. A \$565K portion of this loss can be attributed to the misalignment of timing between when we received funds from donors in previous financial years, and when we spent the funds during this financial year.

Current economic conditions have impacted both fundraising efforts and operating costs, with our operating costs exceeding incoming funding by \$958K.

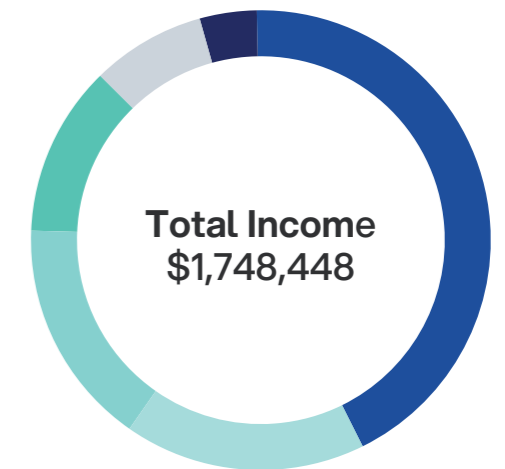
As we see costs increase for almost every aspect of our work, Interplast will prioritise improving financial stability. We will continue to monitor and adapt to this environment to ensure the organisation's sustainability.

This financial year, we began implementing initiatives to increase institutional and government grants and individual giving, while continuing to closely monitor overhead expenses. Furthermore, we aim to increase the alignment of our expenditure on programs with incoming grants and revenue.



Income

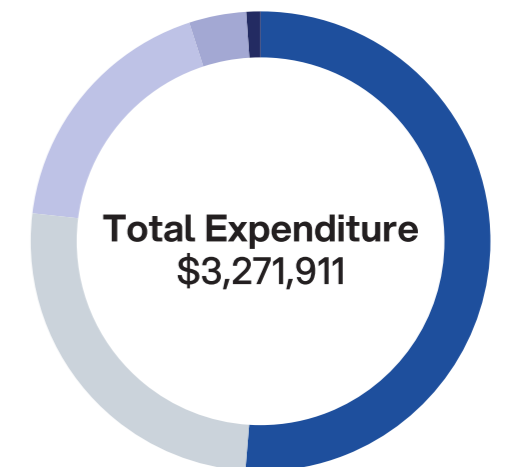
- **Community & Corporate Support** is income received from the Australian public and corporations in the form of public donations, fundraising and bequests.
- **Rotary** income is earned from grants and donation receipts from Rotary clubs, and individual donations attributed to a donor's Rotary club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



- Community & Corporate Support \$753,644 (43%)
- Rotary \$293,481 (17%)
- DFAT Grants \$275,347 (16%)
- Other Income \$207,424 (12%)
- Australian Organisations & Trusts \$141,347 (8%)
- International Organisations \$77,205 (4%)

Expenditure

- **International Programs** includes expenses and support costs associated with overseas programs.
- **Accountability & Operating** costs cover administrative and other costs necessary to run the organisation; including, but not limited to, staff time in areas of finance, administration, insurance premiums, rent, consultancy fees.
- **Fundraising & Marketing** costs are associated with attracting support through donations, sponsorships and community awareness. This includes staff time, events, advertising, mail, website, and the processing of donations.
- **Community Education** costs relate to increasing awareness and educating Australians on humanitarian and development issues.
- **Non-Monetary Expenditure** includes costs that do not require the expenditure of cash such as depreciation and deferred charges.



- International Programs \$1,688,856 (51%)
- Accountability & Operating \$849,848 (26%)
- Fundraising & Marketing \$591,169 (18%)
- Community Education \$127,413 (4%)
- Non-Monetary Expenditure \$14,625 (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 for the year ended 30 June 2024	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
2024: 4 Office Volunteers for a total of 100 days 2023: 0	20,963	-
2024: 33 Medical Specialists for a total of 320 days 2023: 43 Medical Specialists for a total of 506 days	232,986	394,956
2024: 32 Allied Health Specialists, Nurse Educators and Nurses for a total of 328 days 2023: 37 Allied Health Specialists, Nurse Educators and Nurses for a total of 458 days	135,142	182,568
Total Value of Volunteer Services	389,091	577,524

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 or by emailing contactus@interplast.org.au. Further details are available in our Annual Financial Report which can be accessed at interplast.org.au.

Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2024

Revenue	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Donations & Gifts – Monetary	637,614	970,046
Donations & Gifts – Non-monetary	35,015	43,079
Bequests & Legacies	63,214	535,951
Grants		
- Government	277,847	319,002
- Other Australian	298,382	48,004

- Overseas	254,872	283,862
Interest	175,983	163,074
Other Income	5,521	9,821
Total Revenue	1,748,448	2,372,839
Expenditure	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
International aid and development programs expenditure		
International Programs		
Direct international program costs	1,432,225	1,312,882
Program support costs	256,631	157,022
Community education	127,413	83,433
Fundraising costs		
Public	591,169	485,413
Government, Multilateral and Private	-	32,352
Accountability and Administration	849,848	559,517
Non-Monetary Expenditure	14,625	19,926
Total international aid and development expenditure	3,271,911	2,650,545
Domestic programs	-	-
Total expenditure	3,271,911	2,650,545
Excess of expenditure over revenue / revenue over expenditure	(1,523,463)	(277,706)
Total comprehensive (loss) / income	(1,523,463)	(277,706)

Statement of financial position for the year ended 30 June 2024


Assets	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	4,030,240	4,641,279
Listed investments received through bequest	72,587	65,036
Receivables	-	63,462
Prepayments	37,690	100,274
Total current assets	4,140,517	4,870,051
Non-current assets		
Right-of-use assets	610,924	-
Property and equipment	20,814	24,493

Total non-current assets	631,738	24,493
Total assets	4,772,255	4,894,544
Liabilities	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
Current liabilities		
Payables	104,213	162,735
Lease liabilities	114,554	-
Deferred income	852,346	50,000
Provisions	179,506	143,212
Total current liabilities	1,250,620	355,947
Non-current liabilities		
Lease liabilities	510,960	-
Provisions	5,377	9,836
Total non-current liabilities	516,337	9,836
Total liabilities	1,766,957	365,783
Net assets	3,005,298	4,528,761
Equity	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
General reserve	1,200,000	1,200,000
Donor restricted reserve	1,264,489	1,808,321
Retained earnings	540,809	1,520,440
Total equity	3,005,298	4,528,761

Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Retained Earnings (\$)	Donor Restricted Reserve (\$)	General Reserve (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance at 1 July 2022	3,606,467	-	1,200,000	4,806,467
Comprehensive income for the year	(277,706)	-	-	(277,706)
Reserve Transfer	(1,808,321)	1,808,321	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2023	1,520,440	1,808,321	1,200,000	4,528,761
Comprehensive income for the year	(1,523,463)	-	-	(1,523,463)
Reserve Transfer	543,832	(543,832)	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2024	540,809	1,264,489	1,200,000	3,005,298

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 2024, 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-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
2. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



BDO Audit Pty Ltd
Elizabeth Blunt
Director

Melbourne, 18 October 2024

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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 2024, 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 material accounting policy information, 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 2024 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.aasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>) at:

http://www.aasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BDO Audit Pty Ltd

Elizabeth Blunt
 Director

Melbourne, 18 October 2024

Accountability

Partner 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 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.

Australian Council for International Development

Interplast is a member of ACFID and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. ACFID is the

peak body for aid and international development non-government-organisations and its code of conduct upholds the highest standards of ethics, effectiveness and accountability.

For further information about the Code, please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Guidance Document available at acfid.asn.au. Complaints relating to a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct by an ACFID member can be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee available at 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. If you wish to lodge a complaint about Interplast, send an email to admin@interplast.org.au, phone our office on 03 7042 5460, 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





Interplast Australia & New Zealand

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