



Working together for a healthier PNG

Your Guide to Volunteering with
Australian Doctors International (ADI)

www.adi.org.au



**Australian
Aid** 



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MEMBER

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Who are ADI?

Since 2002 Australian Doctors International (ADI) has sent over 60 volunteer doctors to PNG providing in excess of 14,000 hours of clinical services, public health education and training courses to support remote communities.

ADI was founded in 2000 by former MP and general practitioner, Dr Peter Macdonald. ADI first started working in partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Daru-Kiunga in Western Province (WP) of PNG to help support their rural health network and services. In 2011 ADI expanded its program to remote and rural areas of New Ireland Province (NI) of PNG, in partnership with the New Ireland Provincial Government, and then in 2019 into West New Britain Province (WNB). ADI is a fully accredited not for profit organisation and receives part of our funding through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). ADI is based in Seaforth, Sydney, and has field offices in Kiunga (WP) and Kavieng (NI), PNG.

ADI President and Founder: DR PETER MACDONALD OAM, MBBS MRCGP DA DRCOG

Peter ran his own General Practice in Manly for more than 25 years and followed up his environmental and public health concerns by becoming an active and effective politician at both local and NSW State levels. He then volunteered with Medecins sans Frontiers, Timor Aid (post- Independence) and is currently providing clinical services regularly in remote South Australia.

ADI CEO: DR KLARA HENDERSON BA, MCom, PhD (Int Public Health)

Klara has a PhD in health policy and economics on Timor Leste and has worked with organisations such as WHO, the World Bank, Gavi, UNAIDS and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations on the front line in Ghana, Kenya, PNG, India and Thailand. She has conducted health evaluations and authored numerous publications including on access to health in low resource settings. Klara has been a member of ADI's Program Committee since 2014, and CEO since January 2018.

1 doctor  1 nurse
for every 17,068 people for every 2,270 people 



Why are we in PNG?

PNG is Australia's closest neighbour with whom we have had a long relationship, and health services there could not be more different. PNG ranks at 153 (of 189 countries) on the UN's Human Development Index and is the most populous nation in the Pacific.

PNG has about one doctor for every 17,000 people, compared to one doctor for every 302 people in Australia and about one nurse for every 2,300 people compared to one nurse for every 100 people in Australia.

The major health issues in PNG are communicable diseases, with malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhoeal diseases, and acute respiratory disease being the major causes of morbidity and mortality, a generalised HIV epidemic driven mainly by heterosexual transmission, and very high infant, child and maternal mortality.

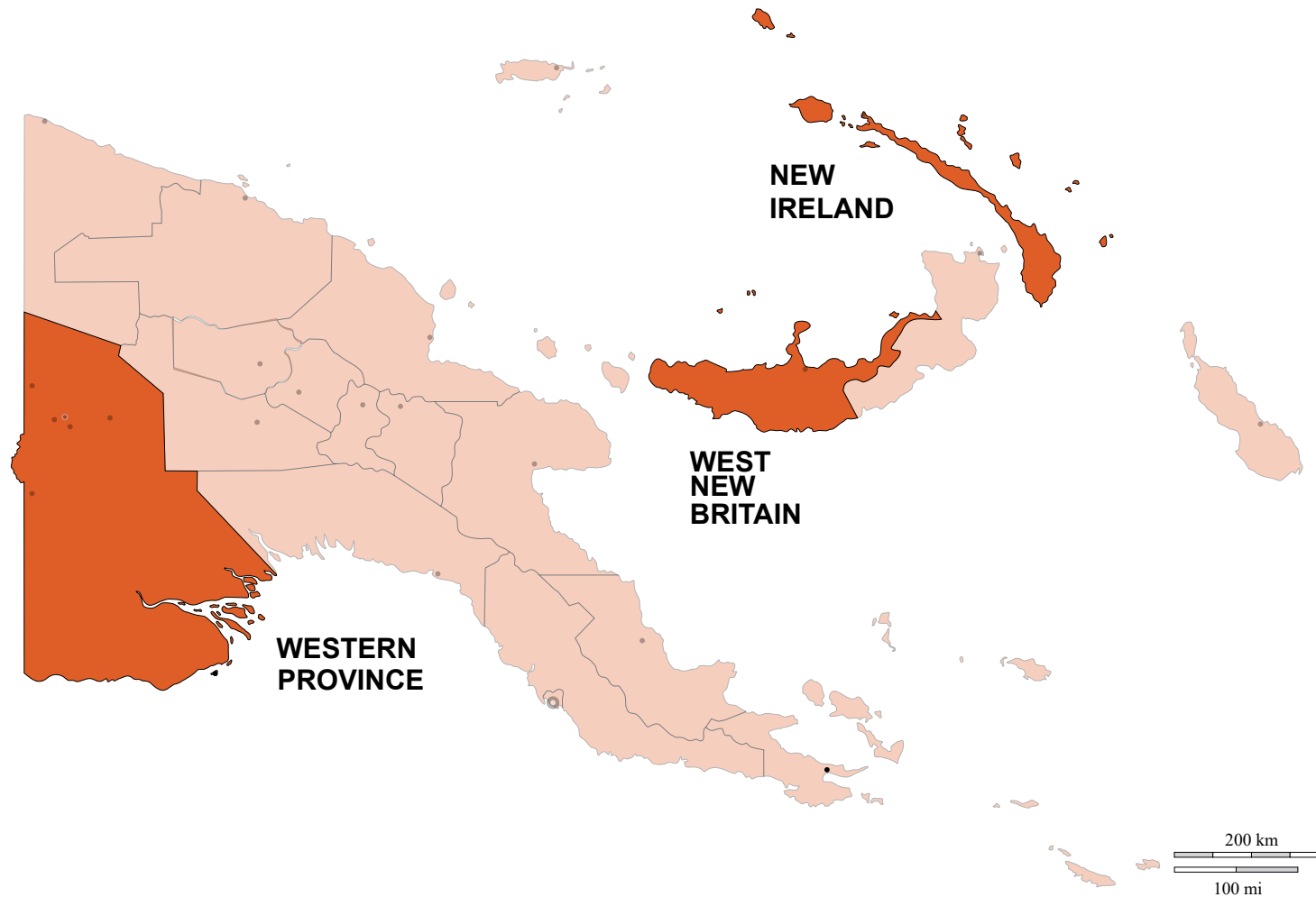
About 90% of the population live in rural areas where clean drinking water is hard to get and access to services is often difficult, slow and expensive. Most communities have limited access to even the most basic health centres.

As PNG has one of the highest rates of maternal death in the Asia-Pacific region, it is a dedicated area of focus for ADI. We work to improve access to obstetric care and safe birthing services. We also deliver services and training in family planning, and sexual and reproductive health.

under 5 mortality rate  maternal mortality rate = **57** **733**
per 1,000 live births per 100,000 live births

**Australian under 5 mortality rate is 3.62 per 1,000 live births

*Australian maternal mortality rate is 8.5 per 100,000 live births



Where we work in PNG

ADI has worked in Western Province since 2002, New Ireland since 2011 and West New Britain since 2019. We work where there is an identified health need and where we can partner with local healthcare providers to reach out into their remotest communities where the vast proportion of PNG people live.

How we work in PNG

Australian Doctors International take a two-prong approach towards working for a healthier PNG. Our aim is to partner with, train and resource local healthcare providers so that our services will eventually no longer be needed in the regions we work. We do this through:



1. Treating

Providing Clinical Services to remote communities - mothers, children and families

Diagnosis and treatment of malaria, leprosy and tuberculosis; treatment of wounds and injuries; counselling on family planning; diagnosis and treatment of lifestyle diseases

2. Training

Providing training to upskill local Healthcare Workers

On-the-job and case based training on conditions and patients as they present at the remote clinics; along with in-depth workshops on emergency obstetrics and family planning

Our Impact in PNG 2018/19




100%
of communities we visit are
remote
= **over 4** hours travel
by boat
or 4WD


52%
coverage
of Health Facilities
across our provinces

**ACCESS TO
HEALTH FOR
REMOTE
COMMUNITIES**

215 patrol
days  **25,000**
clinical services
provided

TRAINING HEALTHCARE WORKERS

 **58%** **HEALTHCARE
OF WORKERS**
from ADI Health Partners in PNG
received training from a doctor or health educator

 **181** **HEALTHCARE
WORKERS**
trained = 61% of HCWs in patrol catchment area

 **24%** of remote HCWs
attended in-service
training this year  **over 50%** of HCWs receiving
training come from
remote areas

367  of case based and group based
HOURS **training delivered**
to healthcare workers **403** people received case or group based
healthcare training

FAMILY PLANNING



91% of patrols in NIP have a family planning
healthcare worker
108 hours of public health
education delivered



1000
couple-years
of protection

PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY

 **13,276**
community members  attended public
health education

77% of communities in our patrol
catchment area received
public health education 

 **316**
HOURS
public health
education

DISABILITY INCLUSIVENESS

 **1,130**
people received
physiotherapy


 **550**
pairs
of glasses
supplied


 **180**
people with
disability
received clinical
services

 **87** house
calls
made to remote,
marginalised patients


 **15** new patients
registered
with the National Disability Register
helping to ensure ongoing medical care

GENDER EQUITY

 **50%**
of multidisciplinary
health patrol team are
women

 **51%**
OF
clinical services
FOR
female
patients

CAPACITY BUILDING

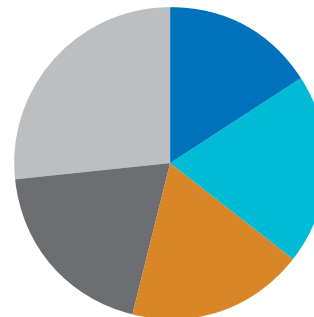
80% 
of program positions
filled by PNG
Health Partner staff
in both Admin & Clinical roles



How we fund our work

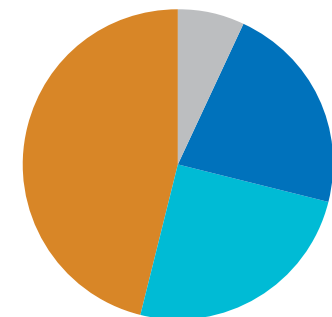
Australian Doctors International are a not for profit organisation. We are one of only about 50 Australian NGOs accredited with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) (formerly AusAID) and receive funding through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Total Revenue
\$1.2 million FY 2018/19



- Grants: DFAT - 13%
- Grants: Overseas - 16%
- Grants: Other Australian - 25%
- Undesignated Donations - 16%
- Donations: Non-Monetary - 30%

Total Expenditure
\$1.3 million FY 2018/19



- Fundraising & Community Education - 1%
 - Accountability & Admin - 19%
 - Non-Monetary Expenditure for International Programs - 28%
 - International Program & Support Costs - 52%
- 80%

We also have a number of generous private donors and sponsors who support our vision including:



My Experience: Dr Ian Hunter



I first volunteered with ADI in 2015 at Namatani in New Ireland Province at the far East of PNG. I was there for 5 months doing mainly hospital based clinical work with some sea patrols. I returned to PNG again in late 2019 where I spent 3 months in Western Province based at Balimo and working with the Sustainable Development Program (SDP) Aerial Health Patrols (AHP), with whom ADI has an active partnership.

On my first trip I worked with local health workers in Namatanai. It was great to feel part of the local community. When I returned in 2019 to Balimo I was accompanied by another ADI volunteer (Nurse Nick Morris) and we flew out in a health patrol team of seven people in total. Although both experiences were very different with their own stresses and rewards, I enjoyed both deployments. At no stage did I feel unsafe as the support from ADI for the safety of personnel is paramount and very comforting.

In Western Province, Nick and I had our time divided between treating patients and upskilling health workers. In many areas these were the first patrols to bring in doctors, vaccines, family planning, water and sanitation advice etc in more than 20 years! We were welcomed with flowers, drums and dance and were taken to see special local sights. It was a very welcoming experience.

Prior to going to PNG I had developed an interest in Tropical Diseases so for me personally it was rewarding to be involved with the management of exotic illnesses such as Malaria, TB, Leprosy, Filariasis, Yaws, severe infant malnutrition and other issues which otherwise I had only read about. The management of trauma, especially family violence and obstetric complications in anaemic grand multiparous patients, took me a bit by surprise. But this aside, the majority of clinical work was usual GP type problems such as URTIs, aches and pains, gastro, UTIs, diabetes, some pneumonia, hypertension, COAD and Asthma.

The down side of my time in PNG would have to be frustration with how poor the health system is. And it's getting worse. Local health workers on the ground however are genuine, caring and very hard working. They need support and value the in-service training ADI provide and the work our doctors are able to do on patrol. I plan to return again to PNG.



Top: Dr Ian (left) and Nick being welcomed to community while on remote patrol in Western Province

Above: Snake bite management training session with local area health workers



My Experience: Dr Jenny Hamper

The ADI team are enthusiastic and energetic and treat hundreds of people during each remote patrol clinic. I remember being very busy most days. While on patrol, our maternal and child health nurse does pap smears, STI checks and immunises children where possible. The Physio sees patients with back and knee pains, teaching them how to lift properly and do simple rehabilitative exercises. They often find disabled people they did not previously know about, and arrange for appropriate equipment to be delivered and follow up care. Our Dentists visit local schools and screen hundreds of children, as well as treating adults at our clinics. Unfortunately severe dental decay is very common, necessitating tooth extraction in many cases. Our team members do malaria, syphilis, HIV/AIDS and haemoglobin checks, which often highlight the huge prevalence of malaria cases and also severe anaemia which can lead to maternal death during childbirth if left untreated. They also assist in TB case finding and follow-up. The HIV & STD worker gives 'awareness' talks to school students, community groups and patients waiting on verandas. And our Doctors deliver babies, reset bones, diagnose a variety illnesses and conditions and work to upskill local health workers to ensure communities have ongoing medical support once the ADI team has moved on.

I have many good memories of both the times I volunteered in PNG, in 2013-14 and again in 2019. I was always looked after very well – receiving advice of the best way to wash while wearing a 'lap lap' (sarong), making sure I was safe if I had to use the outdoor toilet pit late at night, and trying to teach me Pidgin (my attempts at saying many of the words were a source of great amusement).



My Experience: Dr Roeland Kraan

Living and working in PNG is an amazing experience. In your free time there's lots to do - there is swimming in the ocean or beautiful rivers, diving, surfing, and birdwatching. One of the highlights for me was being a part of a traditional canoe race. Food wise, the prawns, lobster and fish are amazing. And the people are so welcoming. The local colleagues are just the sweetest people, always keeping an eye out for you and making sure you're doing fine.

Professionally, it's amazing to fly into all these remote villages and very rewarding. You really visit the most health deprived people in PNG and there is a lot you can do. I liked that we were focused on the basics: water, sanitation, vaccination and training local health workers. Things which have long term health benefits.

Working in PNG was a learning experience on many different levels. The patrol schedule was the biggest challenge, especially in the beginning. It was a challenge mentally and physically and was harder than I expected - sleeping arrangements were not always optimal for someone as tall as me! Sometimes street dogs would keep me awake as well. Despite this, I felt very safe and supported during my time in PNG and it is an experience that has challenged me and made me a better doctor.

Volunteering with ADI is a life experience that's unique. It's sweaty, it's exhausting, it's amazing, it's frustrating and it's wonderful all in one day. And it has enriched my life in many different ways. I would definitely go again!



How you can get involved

Are you looking for a new challenge? Interested in tropical medicine? Looking for a chance to make a difference? Australian Doctors International (ADI) needs you!

Volunteering with ADI is a life changing experience. You will have opportunities simply not available here in Australia.

As a doctor on remote patrol with ADI, no two days are ever the same. You may be helping women give birth safely, assessing emergency medical needs, diagnosing malaria and TB, presenting health education messages in schools and treating survivors of domestic violence.

Your clinical skills and resourcefulness will be put to the test while you work in communities so remote there is no other health care available. You will diagnose and treat medical conditions not found in Australia. Your managerial and administration skills will be called upon as you supervise and help to train local health care workers. You will not be facing these challenges alone. Instead you will be part of a welcoming and supportive local team as well as being supported by our staff in the Sydney office.

If you would like to learn more about working in PNG, please call our office on (02) 9907 8988. We look forward to answering any questions you may have about this amazing experience.

Call us today to get started!

www.adi.org.au



What we cover during your deployment

- Economy class flights within Australia to the Sydney office for briefings
- Shuttles to and from the Sydney airport (ADI will book)
- 1-2 nights in a local B&B on arrival and return to ADI's Sydney office (ADI sourced accommodation, if you choose to stay elsewhere we will reimburse you up to \$150 per night)
- Vaccinations and anti-malaria medication
- Laptop, Satellite phone and safety gear for use when in PNG
- One return flight from Sydney to PNG
- Travel Insurance
- Accommodation, living allowance and food allowance while in PNG

To apply please send your CV to hrofficer@adi.org.au

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ADI's commitment to its duty of care is reflected in its Child Safeguarding Policy and Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct promoting the protection and safety of children. ADI's policy and code of conduct establishes internal measures to prevent and respond to child abuse and exploitation in its programs and operations across PNG. ADI aims to integrate disability inclusion into all aspects of its programs as it strives to reach those marginalised by location, health and gender. ADI has a zero tolerance toward sexual exploitation and abuse in all forms. ADI's policy covers this as well as the team's shared responsibility on behaviour; reporting mechanisms and victim safety. ADI seeks to make the work place free from all forms of harassment and discrimination. ADI is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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