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March 2020  
**ADI Response**

After considering advice from DFAT, ACFID and our own medical advisors, Australian Doctors International (ADI) **last week made the difficult decision to bring our expatriate medical staff back from PNG.** The decision was a difficult one but one that we needed to make and act on promptly in the context of borders closing and international flights being cancelled. Unfortunately, this has meant that we have had to also postpone training programs that were scheduled for March and June on Family Planning and Emergency Obstetrics and Neonatal Care with some of our partners.

In the very short term, our priority has been to ensure that our non-PNG staff were able to return home and that our PNG local staff are safe, healthy and able to continue their important health care work despite the challenging conditions. **ADI have resourced our staff and ADI local health partners with N95 masks, provided WHO posters and COVID-19 information, translated into Pidgin.**

With your ongoing support, we will continue providing health services on the ground in the three regions in which we currently work: New Ireland, Western Province and West New Britain and support the work of our local team and our health partners. We will work with our team to conduct essential public health where and when we are permitted to in compliance with the PNG Government laws. **We will continue to liaise with our partners in PNG so that we are ready to return at the soonest opportunity.** The ADI team are taking this opportunity to prepare new training materials, conduct program evaluations and recruit doctors so that when we are able to return, we can return promptly and better prepared than ever.

**Be assured that one of our key priorities remains ensuring that PNG locals receive the training and support they need in order to provide ongoing health services to their fellow Papua New Guineans.** It's times like this that demonstrate how critical the upskilling of local healthcare workers is and ADI recognises that this needs to continue to be a key component of our work in PNG in the months and years to come.

ADI also wants to send **a huge thanks to healthcare workers around the world** who are working tirelessly. We acknowledge and applaud your bravery, skills and expertise. Whether you are in Kavieng, Kimbe or Kiunga, the hospitals of London or Milan, or the aid posts in the villages on the remote south coast of New Britain in PNG. We are behind you every day; every patient and every challenge you face.

On behalf of ADI, I wish all of our staff, supporters and partners all the best for these difficult times.

### Dr Klara Henderson

Australian Doctors International CEO

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*Australian Doctors International (ADI) receives support from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).*



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