

COVID-19



April 2020
ADI Response

On Wednesday the PNG Commissioner of Police announced another case of COVID-19 in PNG, bringing their total number of confirmed cases to eight. This island nation now faces the prospect of the virus spreading in rural and remote communities where health resources are already thinly stretched. **This is why the work of Australian Doctors International (ADI) is so crucial at this time.** You can find all the news from ADI as it happens on our [new COVID-19 webpage](#).

ADI are working quickly to get PPE and medical supplies to frontline hospitals and health centres in need. Yesterday masks, googles and gloved arrived in Western Provinces for Rumganie and Kiunga hospitals, Catholic Health and the PNG Defence Force.



PPE and medical supplies being packed and sent from Sydney

Our doctors, in partnership with Becton Dickinson (BD), are now also **hosting webinar training sessions** for hospitals in New Ireland and West New Britain to help doctors prepare their facilities and staff to respond to the epidemic. This follows on from two successful webinars held last week in Western Province. At the request of local government health authorities, our team in PNG are **visiting remote communities** to tell them how they can protect their families from COVID-19, **teaching how transmission works, demonstrating social distancing and showing the correct way to wash hands.**

The team **distribute simple buckets and soap** and help set up community handwashing stations which have the potential to save lives. ADI have **developed and delivered community training** on *COVID-19, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion* to ensure fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their

information available from the WHO. Our latest poster is on *No Betel Nut Chewing Spitting* (as pictured below). The posters, in both English and Tok Pisin, are simple and easy to understand and are being gratefully received by health professionals and community leaders alike.



Currently, thanks to your support and funding we receive from the Australian Government, ADI are continuing to **source more N95 masks, gowns, hand sanitiser and we will continue to ship these as long as there is a need.** We are also writing and delivering more **community virus education** programs, hosting **Q&A webinars into provincial hospitals** in PNG and have joined numerous **Provincial Health COVID-19 Taskforces.**

The ADI team in Sydney moved to a working from home model in mid-March, and all Board meetings and committee meetings are now run virtually. We are still contactable via phone; and we encourage you to follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

During this difficult time, ADI continue to work on the frontline to support our partners in PNG. It is more important than ever for us to be bringing better healthcare to our closest neighbour. On behalf of all our team, we want to thank you not only for your crucial, ongoing financial support but also for all the lovely messages of encouragement that we have received. It means a lot to us! We hope that you and your family remain safe and well during this difficult time,

Dr Klara Henderson



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



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