

A Doctor for Venilale, East Timor

Palms Australia

The core work of Palms Australia is to recruit, prepare and send Australians, with the qualifications, skills and experience to tackle the most pressing needs identified by communities seeking to reduce poverty. Since independence was re-established in East Timor, Palms' medical volunteers have assisted in general practice and specialties across 17 Timorese communities and health institutions.

The project: IFMA, Venilale

Timorese vocational college Instituto Filhas de Maria Auxiliadora (IFMA) located in Venilale in the district of Baucau is requesting a doctor to strengthen capacity of its clinic which serves the people of Venilale and surrounding communities. In the words of the nurse in charge of the clinic, Sr. Yasintha, the doctor will help to "... cure any illness and educate the people so they understand what they need to do to help themselves and prevent and/or cure their illness."



Volunteer Damien Rake with a young patient and mother at the community clinic Hatubuilico, East Timor, 2012.

Why we're involved

Palms prioritise placements where communities seek to empower themselves and this request provides that opportunity. Clearly the doctor will assist to develop the skills of clinic staff. As importantly, after spending some time becoming aware of the health and living circumstances of the community, s/he will



Health awareness is important for hospitality students at Instituto Filhas de Maria Auxiliadora

be expected to assist educate people on how to manage their own health to the degree that is possible.

Venilale is a regional community in the East Timorese district of Baucau, where the Salesian sisters have been providing opportunities with hospitality training for girls for many years. The position ticks our boxes of providing opportunity outside of the urban areas, where it might otherwise be lacking, as well as partnering with experienced development practitioners. Also there are many valuable health lessons that can be shared with hospitality students.

How are we helping?

Palms is looking to recruit a doctor with a capacity to address the immediate medical needs of those presenting with an illness. They will also need to be able to exude hope and build confidence in people that they can address many of the issues causing ill-health.

Palms will introduce the doctor recruited to other health professionals who have successfully developed effective preventive-health practices in similar circumstances. Our unique preparation and support during placement will address processes for assisting to build the health awareness and capacity of individuals at the clinic and in the community more broadly.

Drawing on the cultural and development frameworks introduced at Palms' pre-departure Orientation Course our support in the first six months of the placement will focus on building an understanding of practices that can be used for effective community engagement. This will help the volunteer to learn about culture, identify the strengths already existing in the community and give them a start in the process of learning local language.

The Benefits

- Health related poverty will be addressed in a remote region of East Timor;
- Community health education will enable people to detect and act on symptoms illness;
- Clinic processes and staff skills are further developed;
- Improved opportunities to see a doctor for the community around Venilale and those who visit the clinic from surrounding villages;

Is the project sustainable?

The doctor working at the IFMA clinic will also work alongside and share skills with the doctors at the Government clinic. Sharing health knowledge with other local doctors adds to the sustainability of providing health education in the community.

Applications

Applicants for 2017 will need to attend Palms' pre-departure Orientation Course at

[Peter Canisius House](#) Pymble NSW

7 to 15 January 2017

To apply or for all enquiries, please call:

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