



Christian Medical and
Dental Fellowship
of Australia

ICMDA Oceania Report 2021

We thank God for his blessing during the challenging times of the last year.

We thank the CMDFA Board and the CMF NZ board for their support. And we thank also colleagues in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, and Palau. Please see our website <https://icmda.net/regions/oceania/>

ICMDA's **Oceania** region covers the three larger nations of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, along with 20 smaller sovereign states and dependent territory islands.

It is a vast area covering covering 88 million square miles of ocean and is dotted with 25,000 islands. However, just Australia and New Zealand have fellowships that are affiliated with ICMDA, in 1975 & 1982 respectively.

There are 34 medical schools here, serving the region's 42 million people. The major languages are English, French and the various Polynesian languages.

There is a large Christian presence here, particularly in the smaller islands, reflecting its colonial past, but the Christian influence is being eroded by secularism and nominalism. Migration is occurring on a massive scale, with many Pacific Island ethnicities having a larger population abroad than in their traditional homeland. This places social and economic pressure on the area.

There are very few skilled health professionals in Papua New Guinea, only 6 for every 10,000 people, compared to 143 & 162 in New Zealand & Australia respectively (for every 10,000 people). Most other major islands have between 20-40 health professionals for every 10,000 people.





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Field Workers



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