

MEMBER UPDATE



February 2018

FINDING A NEW WAY



After 18 years of delivering much-needed eye and health care services to those in most need throughout Vanuatu, **PCV Health** now enter 2018 in a battle against time to survive. Medical Sailing Ministries has been working alongside PCV Health since first sailing to Vanuatu in 2009 resulting in a strong partnership and bond.

Sadly, the future of PCV Health is now, more than ever, dependent on its financial survival. Some income is received from those patients who are able to pay. But much more is needed. Most funding in the past has come via the Australian Government's overseas aid program (**AusAID** and

DFAT). Substantial budget cut-backs in Australia's foreign aid budget, however, saw this funding cease in 2016. In 2017 the UnitingWorld (mission arm of the Uniting Church in Australia) organisation also ceased funding most of its activities in Vanuatu.

PCV Health has only survived this past six months through the generosity of, volunteers, loyal individual donors and cash reserves.

This is understandably a time of great challenge. PCV Health is now seeking to re-establish itself on what could be called a "commercial basis". The goal being to generate sufficient revenue from client-fees to cover salaries, clinic and outreach costs, while still maintaining commitment to the poor and isolated. Services at the local hospitals being limited and too expensive for most.

To keep the team of eight experienced and dedicated health workers together we desperately need "transition funds" – for the next 6-12 months – to enable this new business model to be implemented.

If you feel able to make a (non-deductible) donation, however small, it would be greatly appreciated. Details of the different ways donations can be made are provided here ... pcvhealth.org/make-a-donation/



We invite you view Richard Tatwin's latest message above

WWW.PCVHEALTH.ORG

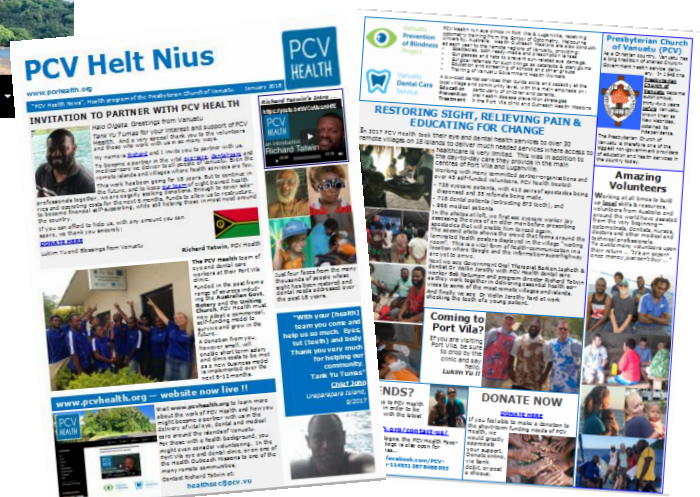
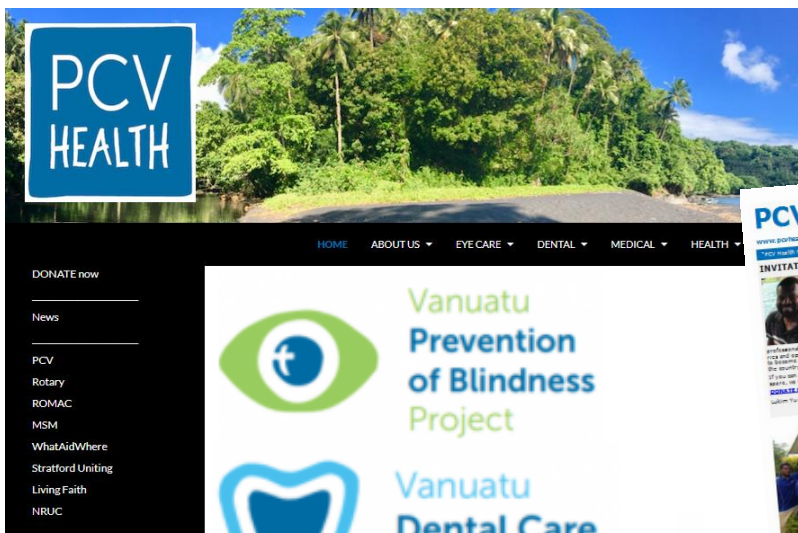
That's right folks, the new PCV Health website is alive! Check it out. And remember to send a link to your friends.

You can also send us a brief message at <http://pcvhealth.org/contact-us/> so we can keep you informed of the latest news and developments. www.pcvhealth.org

COMMUNICATION

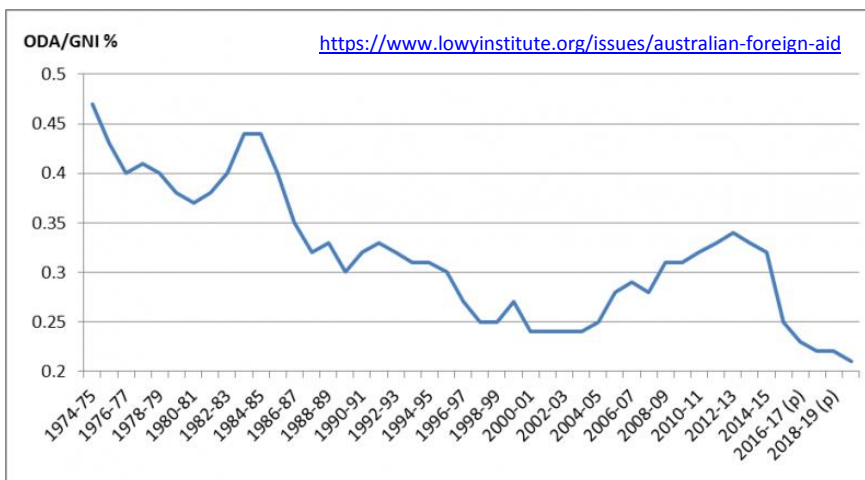
Check out the latest PCV Health News at the following link ...

<http://pcvhealth.org/about/news/>



Going, going, going ... almost gone ...

While only six OECD* countries – Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK – have met the United Nations target to provide at least 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) as foreign aid, Australia has slumped to 0.22%, down from 0.47% back in the mid-1970s, as the graph below shows:



* The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is an intergovernmental economic organisation with 35-member countries, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

Meet the team ...

In order to maintain continuity of service, while preserving the experience and knowledge built up over the past 18 years of operation it is critical to keep the team together. Meet Richard, Hellen, Bob, Morinda, Jay, Dick and Jessy & Rafina at ... <http://pcvhealth.org/about/staff-profiles/>



Tank Yu Tumas !!

Again, we thank you for your ongoing interest, encouragement and support. The response to the plight of PCV Health has been overwhelming, with the Port Vila team demonstrating such courage and initiative. Whilst there is obvious uncertainty about the very survival of PCV Health in the wake of their funding "issues", underneath we feel there is a real opportunity here to put the health program on a firm, sustainable and independent footing for the future.

Your donation towards this interim, short-term funding need would be greatly appreciated ... visit <https://pcvhealthsalaries.raisely.com/> or <http://pcvhealth.org/make-a-donation/>

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www.pcvhealth.org www.whataidwhere.org www.bestpublictoilet.org

Australia's Aid Cuts and the Shrinking National Soul

By Reverend Tim Costello AO FAIIA
24 MAY 2017

This year, World Vision was hoping for a visionary budget. Instead, Australia's dwindling foreign aid funding demonstrated dumb economics and provided stark evidence of Australia's moral famine.

In the lead-up to the federal budget, we heard National MP Andrew Broad say, "what we do in aid defines who we want to be as a people." I couldn't agree more with his sentiment but was surprised to hear it coming from a member of a government that has slashed Australia's aid budget to its lowest point in history. Andrew Broad said it was a matter of taking a global view and showing leadership.

This view is shared by progressive conservatives internationally, such as Theresa May's government in Britain and Angela Merkel's in Germany. But sadly, Broad's progressive view is not shared by his own government. The Turnbull government's budget will see aid rise in line with the consumer price index for the next two financial years but then be frozen at that level for two years. This represents a \$303 million cut in real terms.

A country's aid budget is generally measured as a proportion of a nation's gross national income (GNI). We are already sitting at our lowest-ever level, 0.22 per cent of GNI: that is, we give 22 cents in every \$100 to the world's poorest people. This is a paltry contribution for one of the world's most prosperous nations, and is seen as such.

When our Australian aid funding is put in the freezer in 2020-21, this figure will sink to a shocking new low of just 0.20 per cent of GNI. Compare this to the UK's commitment of 0.7 per cent of GNI. Theresa May has stood up to disgruntled Tory backbenchers who believe the money should be spent on domestic services or defence, and she is rightly proud of her government's record on humanitarian aid.

Here in Australia there was bipartisan support for an aid target of 0.5 per cent just a few years ago. That now seems a distant memory. Instead, the Turnbull/Morrison budget has revealed that we are hitching our wagon to the new populism, defined by nationalism, protectionism, self-interest and fear.

Rather than joining the compassionate conservatives of Europe, we are defining ourselves as a nation that is insular and inward-looking. And this won't change anytime soon.

Our Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop has said the government won't look at boosting aid until the budget is back in surplus. The government will use the 'savings' for other priorities, such as national security measures. These cuts represent a shrinkage of our national soul.

Australian Institute of International Affairs