Vanuatu Dental Care Service

A low cost, non-traditional dental program that builds skills and capacity at the local village and community level.

A partnership program between North Ringwood Uniting Church, Uniting World, the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV) and the Vanuatu Dept. Of Health. Partly funded by the Australian Government’s overseas aid arm AusAID

2013
Did you know?

More than 80% of people in Vanuatu live in rural villages and access to healthcare is limited.

In 2010 Vanuatu recorded just six dentists, six therapists and zero hygienists

International Dental Journal (2010).

The dentist / population ratio sits at a staggering 1:34,812, while the comparable figure for Australia is 1:1,910.

University of Queensland,
Dept Dentistry
**Fast Facts about Vanuatu**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>256,000, 94% Melanesian (2012, CIA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance</td>
<td>1,300km (N to S)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Islands</td>
<td>Total 85, of which 65 inhabited</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volcanoes</td>
<td>5 active (approx)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>English, French, Bislama + 113 local</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>85% Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Happy Index</td>
<td>Winner in 2006 from 178 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independence</td>
<td>1980 from UK &amp; France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former name</td>
<td>New Hebrides (Capt Cook 1774)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>Pt Vila (island of Efate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>Really good !!</td>
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Where is Vanuatu?

Just past New Caledonia, but not as far as Fiji...
a). Delivered through a systematic program of talks titled “Healthy Teeth and Life”. Both in the Port Vila and surrounding region and on the outer islands through direct outreach and the education of Ni-van Govt health workers and teachers located in those areas.

b). Children attending the talk would have the opportunity to receive a free FREE Prevention check-up. Those suffering pain will be looked at first with a particular focus then made to look at the 5-7 and 10-12 year olds.

c). Each child would also receive a brochure on "Healthy Teeth and Life".

DENTALCare Vanuatu
Prevention

a). Check-ups are provided free of charge to new patients. Service to include:
- Cleaning of teeth.
- Dental inspection and recommendation for treatment if required.
- Information on natural methods of cleaning teeth

b). Patient card/records would be maintained and each person will be encouraged to have an annual “Prevention Check-up”, either with the nurse at their local clinic, or at the Pt Vila clinic

c). A small charge will be made for each “Prevention Check-up”

DENTAL Care Vanuatu
a). Where cavities are found it would be recommended that A.R.T.* treatment be provided. Where patients have money (mostly in Pt Vila) a small cost will apply.

b) Where extractions or further treatments is required, patients would be referred to the hospital dental clinic, or booked in to see the visiting volunteer dentist. In remote regions, travelling clinics will include a qualified dental surgeon who can provide treatment.

c). For one week each month a volunteer dentist would attend the Pt Vila clinic to treat more complex cases and assist with the ongoing training of the local dental workers. When conducting remote, outreach dental clinics a dentist will be included in each team to provide treatment on the spot if required. A small charge will be made for each extraction.

* A.R.T. Atraumatic Restorative Treatment

DENTAL Care Vanuatu
A Partnership

- North Ringwood Uniting Church
- Uniting World (Uniting Church in Australia)
- Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV)
- Vanuatu Dept. Of Health

Partly funded by the Australian Government’s overseas aid arm AusAID
Training & Implementation

Bob and Morinda are responsible for the implementation of the Vanuatu Dental Care Service with support from a wonderful array of organisations, individuals and institutions.
Thank You

For your ongoing support and encouragement