



Vanuatu
Dental Care
Service



Volunteer Now !!

Expressions of interest are always invited – for both the remote medical missions to the outer islands between May and September each year and for the regular roster to operate the clinic in the capital Port Vila. It's a great way to share your skills and experience – as a dentist, therapist or dental assistant and to really make a difference. There's even the chance to make a holiday of it !



The Vanuatu Dental Care Service is a low cost, non-traditional dental program that builds skills at the local village and community level. It brings together a range of partners to address oral health in three key areas:

1 Education

2 Prevention

3 Treatment



*"As volunteers to the **Port Vila clinic**, we pretty much pay our own way, including airfares, food and accommodation. For those heading out on one of the three, 2 week **island missions**, the cost is mostly limited to the return airfare to and from Vanuatu. The program then looks after everything else. These tours use local, internal flights, plus 4wds and coastal boats to get around and we experience life in the villages as we travel around. I volunteer because the people are so friendly and appreciative ... it's so rewarding to see the difference you can make in someone's life especially when it comes to relief of pain, which in some cases people have suffered for extended periods of time; years."*

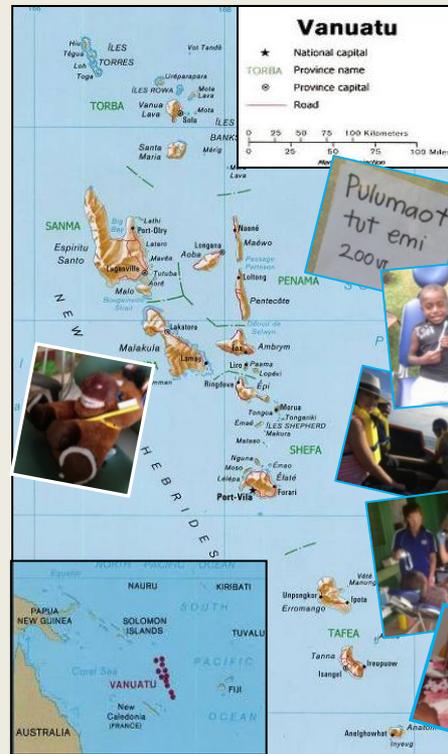
Dr Barry Stewart (Regular volunteer)

*"Our vision for the **Vanuatu Dental Care Service** is to bring good smiles to our people and show them how important it is to protect their teeth and to reduce the sweets and sugary food more and more are eating. We are adopting western diet so we must also adopt western approach to caring for teeth. "*

Bob Natuman, Vanuatu Dental Care Worker

"Our training, initially for a month in Melbourne in early 2013 has continued ever since including in-the-field experience, plus further dental studies. We greatly appreciate the support provided by so many people and organisations over the past 2 years and look forward to growing the Dental Care Service more and more in the future."

Morinda Kalmar (Toara)
Vanuatu Dental Care Worker



"What a truly amazing and incredible trip. So proud to be a part of such a great team and made such friends and hope to have left the islanders of Maewo with fond memories of our help and friendship."

Robyn (Dental assistant)

"Over the years I have led a few teams, in work and other areas of life, but this one was outstanding on several fronts. For starters ... everyone got on so well was unselfish, uncomplaining and cared for each other. The challenges of the environment were viewed through a "task-focussed" outlook, so that nothing was too difficult. So in closing, to my fellow team members – Andrew, Chris, Pat, Tamie, Holly, Mee San, Bob, Dick, Mary, Marcel and John – a very big and heartfelt thank you !! Thank you for great attitudes, hard work and simply being the delightful and fun people that you are."

*Lets do it again sometime.
Cheers"*

Cam
(Team leader)



Specifically, local Vanuatu dental-care workers are trained and employed to run the program on a day-to-day basis, with visiting volunteer dentists and dental assistants, invited on a roster basis to conduct clinical treatment in the Pt Vila clinic & on remote island missions.

According to the University of Queensland's Dentistry School, Vanuatu has one dentist for every 34,000 people. By comparison, Australia has one dentist for every 1,900 people. Further, in Vanuatu 80% of the population live in rural, village communities on 63 separate islands, spread 900km from north to south. As you can imagine, the problems associated with delivering a meaningful, national dental service are considerable.

To find out more, or to express interest in volunteering contact Robert Latimer latimerfamily4@gmail.com

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