

2021

Annual Report



MEDICAL
SAILING
ministries

VANUATU

Advancing health in the South Pacific

Welcome

Medical Sailing Ministries Inc. (MSM Inc.) began in 2009 using the 53-foot Yacht, Chimere to provide remote-access-health and eyecare transport, and logistical support, amongst the islands of Vanuatu. Our mission at that time was to deliver teams of local and volunteer health workers – optometrists, doctors, dentists and nurses – to some of the most remote and inaccessible villages.

MSM Inc. is run by volunteers and operates along compassionate and inclusive Christian-values. Our approach is collaborative and multi-pronged, based on establishing direct, grassroots partnerships with Vanuatu organisations and individuals; plus, others in Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere as opportunities arise.

Current Focus on Oral Health

As our knowledge of Vanuatu has broadened and the network of relationships deepened, our focus in recent years has moved to oral health. Specifically, the promotion of oral health education and prevention strategies to assist the Vanuatu Ministry of Health address the increasing burden of tooth decay and gum disease throughout the country.

Working with in-country partner PCV Health (Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu Health) and dental products manufacturer, DentaLife Australia P/L we have developed the supervised tooth-brushing-in-schools program called “**Gudfala Tut Skul**”, which means “Healthy Teeth School” in the local language of Bislama. The program is all about establishing life changing, brushing habits in Kindy and Grade 1 children, then using this knowledge and experience as a gateway into families and the broader community.

Our move into oral health, builds on our experience coordinating Vanuatu’s first-ever, complete National Oral Health Survey between 2016 and 2018, and then assisting in the writing of a National Oral Health Policy for the Vanuatu Ministry of Health.

While seeking to improve the nation’s oral health, we also create employment and support local business, through the manufacture of our own coconut oil-based toothpaste in Vanuatu; for use in the Gudfala Tut Skul program.

Recognition and Support

As the Gudfala Tut Skul program has expanded, recognition and financial support has been received by way of grants, from the Geneva-based FDI World Dental Federation (through their World Dental Development Fund) and the International College of Dentists (ICD)

In addition, DentaLife Australia P/L was awarded the 2021 Oral Health Partnership Award by the Australian Dental Industry Association (ADIA) for their support of the Gudfala Tut Skul program through Medical Sailing Ministries.



Above: Chimere at the seawall, Port Vila 2017



Above: I-r Bakon, Bob, Richard and Wellin go ashore for another clinic, 2017



Above: Dr Barry, (second from right) with members of the PCV Health team 2017



Above: Bob and Dr Graeme with the welcoming committee, Merelava Island, with Chimere anchored in the background

Financial Foundations

Since the beginning, donations from individuals, companies and organisations have enabled our work to continue, with special grants, like the ones mentioned above, and also from Rotary International, being treated as a bonus.

As a “Deductible Gift Recipient” (DGR), MSM Inc. is able to offer a tax deduction for donations; which we are always happy to receive.

To assist with establishing a more secure, long term funding strategy, we are currently trialling a program called “Tooth Buddies”, involving the sponsorship of Vanuatu schools and Kindies by Australian and New Zealand groups, businesses and individuals. An initiative that not only focuses on improving oral health, but also on expanding cross cultural understanding and establishing grass-roots relationships.

Retirement of Dr Barry

After such a long time, and having made such a significant contribution to the work of MSM and oral health in Vanuatu, it’s hard to consider that Barry Stewart is actually retiring.

Through the oral health programs and initiatives championed by Barry, plus the close, trusted relationships established with so many people in Vanuatu, we know that he will be sorely missed. Barry’s legacy is sure to live on, however, as future generations benefit from Barry’s vision, hard work, commitment and passion.

On behalf of Medical Sailing Ministries and the people of Vanuatu, all we can say is “**Thank you Dr Barry**” ... and enjoy the extra time you are now able to share with your ever-supportive wife, Evelyn.

As they say in Vanuatu Lukim Yu and Tank Yu Tumas

Rob Latimer, Mike Clarke & Deb Allen
MSM Inc. Coordinators



Barry enjoys a rest aboard Chimere between villages, accompanied by Ni-Van health colleagues – Samuel, Morinda, Dick and Bob

Charitable Status

Medical Sailing Ministries Inc. (MSM Inc.) is an Incorporated Association and a registered health promotion charity with tax deductible gift recipient status. Our ABN is 28 775 729 364

Affiliations and Partnerships

Our key partners and affiliates for in-country work are:

- PCV Health (An outreach of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu) www.pcvhealth.org
- The Integrated Oral Health, Eyecare and ENT Unit in the Vanuatu Ministry of Health

Contacts

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Preliminary Consultation for Vanuatu Oral Health Association - a collective discussions between oral health personnel from the government, colleagues from the private practice and our partner NGOs (Int & local) to establish Vanuatu Oral Health Association. Dr Jenny Stephens (Facebook Post, 1.5.21)

2021 at a Glance



WINNER
ORAL HEALTH
PARTNERSHIP
AWARD

DentalLife Australia devoted a large portion of their stand at the ADIA Convention in May this year, to the partnership they have with Medical Sailing Ministries Inc. in the development and expansion of the Gudfala Tut Skul Program. Here we see Deb Allen, Mike Clarke, Dr Barry and Rob Latimer preparing to talk with anyone who will listen...

THE AUSTRALIAN DENTAL INDUSTRY
AWARDS
2021 PRESENTED BY
ADIA Australian Dental Industry Association



MEDICAL
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VANUATU

Messages & Reflections from the Coordinators

Yachtsman & Communications – Rob Latimer

In common with most people and organisations, the impact of COVID19, including restrictions on international travel, has made things challenging for the work of Medical Sailing Ministries.

But through it all, our Ni-Vanuatu colleagues continue to press

on, implementing the Gudfala Tut Skul Program, which is now the main focus of our activities.

It's sometimes tempting to focus on the negatives, but in stepping back and looking at the year in review, there are many highlights that confirm we are on the right track. In particular, the short videos featuring Kindy teachers relating their firsthand experience with the supervised brushing program. A link has been included later in this report (and [HERE](#)) with the teacher's passion and commitment to the program, and its benefits, being truly heart-warming.

We take this opportunity to recognise Dr Barry's amazing contribution over more than 10 years and wish him a most enjoyable retirement as he devotes more time to travelling with his patient and supportive wife Evelyn.

Thank you everyone for your interest, support and prayers for the ongoing work of MSM and we hope you enjoy this report on the year's activities and our plans for the future.

Rob Latimer,
MSM Inc. Co-founder



Rob Latimer
MSM Co-founder

Finance & Administration – Mike Clarke

In my reflection in the 2020 Annual Report last year, I wrote:

"... one thing stands out above all else, the passion and commitment of all those involved to improve the lives and health of the people in Vanuatu. MSM is a Mission of North Ringwood Uniting Church in Melbourne and without the unwavering support of the Congregation, Supporters and Partners, none of this would be possible.

It has been amazing the range of skills, some of which we never knew were available, and all of which have been brought together with a willingness to participate and teamwork".

In our time of 'lockdown' in Melbourne, nothing could be truer than this passion and commitment ... which has continued to shine through, even with endless Zoom and Skype meetings.

We were not able to visit Port Vila during the year, with the bans on international travel, again limiting us to emails and video calls to maintain contact and progress the program.

It has been challenging, but our long-term association on-the-ground in Port Vila with PCV Health, and in Luganville with Northern Provincial Hospital Dental, have been a major contributor to the continuation of the Gudfala Tut Skul Program and successes that we achieved during the year. A big thank you to Richard Tatwin, Bob and Morinda in Port Vila and Dr Julie and Lillon in Luganville.

Stronger relationships have also been forged with the Ministry of Public Health in Port Vila during the year, as we spent a considerable amount of time developing a five year plan (Gudfala Tut Skul Program 2021-2025) that was the basis of an Application to seek out donors for a major expansion of the program. Thank you, Dr Jenny Stephen for your support.

My role focuses on Finance and Operations and managing the back-of-house processes, to support the other MSM Principals with their dental, marketing, communications, fund raising, development and general health programs. There are a number of people who work enthusiastically in this area and whose support is invaluable, including accounting support, purchasing, materials development, transport, shipping and web site management. Everyone contributes to the overall goal and MSM 'teamwork'.

It's been a difficult year; we hope for the opportunity to continue assisting the Vanuatu Oral Health programs with whatever 2022 year brings.

Mike Clarke
MSM Inc. Co-founder



Mike Clarke
MSM Co-founder

Oral Health Consultant, Dr Barry, Retires

Dr Barry ... as he is known in Vanuatu ... has not only been the guiding hand behind MSM's 10-year-long oral health program in Vanuatu, he has also been the hands-on practitioner – naturally, treating patients, but a whole lot more.

Barry's big vision for oral health in Vanuatu has seen him involved in training, mentoring, conducting surveys, developing Government policy, obtaining grants, starting the brushing program Gudfala Tut Skul, recruiting fellow oral health professionals, writing and delivering presentations, organising study tours to Melbourne for Vanuatu dental workers, sending vital dental equipment to Vanuatu, writing articles, helping to develop the Gudfala Tut Paste formulation in partnership with Dentalife ... the list goes on. All the while, Barry has maintained his quiet, exacting, thorough and meticulous approach to all things.

MSM, but particularly the people of Vanuatu, are greatly indebted to Dr Barry for all he has done. This is reflected in the messages of love and affection received when word of Barry's retirement became known. Extracts from a couple of moving tributes have been included here ...

"Thank you [to] Dr. Barry Stewart for all the extra efforts he makes to help me grow, and the challenges he encourages me to face to help me become who I am today." **Lilirose Dan**

"If I have to think of Dr Barry in any way, I would say he has a heart like a lion, a mindset like a lion and brave like a lion. So you the king of the jungle in dentistry, even the nature of dentistry you leave back here speaks of you and when the sun sets at the horizon I see the beauty of dentistry you left behind, it's beautiful. Thank God for your life and dedication." **Bakon Japheth**

Barry, you have prepared the ground and planted the seeds for a better oral health future in Vanuatu. Now, the challenge is for those who share your vision and passion to do all within their power to ensure those seeds grow into trees, bearing the fruit of healthy teeth for future generations; an example to all nations ... showing that the rising tide of tooth decay and oral disease CAN be turned around.

Rob Latimer

Co-founder Medical Sailing Ministries Inc.



Dr Barry takes a well earned rest between village clinics aboard Chimere, 2017



ABOVE: Dr Barry in action, whether that be coordinating a training session, delivering a training session, gathering oral health data, helping to analyse data, and of course treating patients – even a woman off a nearby yacht on the foredeck of the yacht after a full day working onshore.

Highlights from the Past Year

Travel to Vanuatu might have been prevented as a result of the COVID 19 restrictions, but the Gudfala Tut Skuyl Program (GTSP) continues to expand, expected to include 41 participating Kindys and schools by the end of 2022, directly involving around 3,500 children.

A summary of the year's activities is included below:

Gudfala Tut Skul Program – An Update

(GTSP = Healthy Tooth School Program)

The Gudfala Tut Skul Program is a supervised brushing of teeth in schools' initiative, developed by Medical Sailing Ministries Inc. (MSM) in partnership with the Vanuatu Ministry of Health.

It was born out of the 2017 National Oral Health Survey of Vanuatu, which revealed – amongst other things – that around 70% of 5-7-year-old children currently have tooth decay and gum disease, with around 40% rarely or never brushing their teeth.

Further, the problem in the main urban centres of Port Vila and Luganville was shown to be more than twice as bad as in the remote regions; a direct result of easy access to sweets, fizzy drinks and sugary treats. Plus, around 1 in 10 children reported toothache in the past 30 days and nearly 1 in 5 needing urgent intervention based on current pain and/or infection.

After a detailed, 20-week brushing trial in 2018, at Vila Central School (Grades 1, 6 & 9), the Gudfala Tut Skul Program gained Executive Approval from the Ministry of Health, with a view to:

- To raise greater awareness of the importance of oral health in school children and their families through a supervised tooth brushing program
- To instil life-long oral hygiene habits during the early formative years of life
- To raise awareness of the role of high sugar consumption in oral disease and other NCDs related to general health
- To increase exposure of children to the protective benefits of fluoride on teeth through use of fluoride toothpaste (1350 ppm)
- To reduce frequency of toothache in children as demonstrated in the GTSP pilot study, 2018

The table below summarizes the growth in total number of Schools and Early Childhood Care and Education Centres (ECCE Centres) Centres covered under GTSP since the first trial conducted in 2018:



Dr Julianne Tevi implements the Gudfala Tut Skul Program in St Therese school, Luganville SANTO.

Year	Number of GTSP Schools and/or ECCE Centres	Locations	Total number of Children directly involved	Estimated number of household members directly impacted
2018	1	Port Vila (Trial)	104	500
2019	6	Port Vila/Luganville	762	3,660
2020	17	Port Vila/Luganville/Sulphur Bay	2,227	10,690
2021	33	Port Vila/Luganville/Sulphur Bay	3,020	14,500
2022	41	Port Vila/Luganville/Sulphur Bay	3,500	16,800

In August 2020 GTSP was implemented in two rural schools in Sulphur Bay to trial the 'Brush in a Box' version of GTSP intended for distribution to schools in isolated islands and implemented by teachers without the presence of a professional oral health worker.

In 2020 the International College of Dentists (ICD) provided funding to translate the Gudfala Tut Sku documents into Bislama and French. This year (2021) the translated versions were used in the two 'Brush in a Box' schools in Sulphur Bay. The Bislama and French translated documents will be used in GTSP schools in 2022.

A link to a video of GTSP can be found [HERE](#)

Gudfala Tut Skul resources – including brushes, toothpaste, containers, posters, booklets and holders etc – are supplied to the Vanuatu Ministry of Health by PCV Health through their relationship with MSM Inc.

Materials fall into TWO broad categories.

The **STARTER KIT**, comprising the “hardware” for when a Kindy or School are just implementing the program, and The **SUPPLY KIT**, or the “software”, comprising the brushes, toothpaste and booklets, which are progressively replenished

Currently, the costs are being met by grants and donations channeled through Medical Sailing Ministries Inc. while we develop a more sustainable, long-term solution. This is currently placing a severe limitation on expansion, because naturally, we don't want to introduce the program into a school and then have to stop it after just one or two years.



Gudfala Tut Skul resources – translated into French and Bislama – arrive at the remote village of Sulphur Bay, on the southern island of Tanna; part of the Gudfala Tut initiative called “Brush In a Box”.



Feedback from teachers in the field are recorded in a Monitoring & Evaluation Report, conducted by the supervising dentist in the Vanuatu Ministry of Health. Some extracts from the latest report have been included below, along with a link to a short video discussing the operation of the Gudfala Tut Skul Program, featuring three Kindy teacher's teacher: (The "What do the teachers say?" video link is [HERE](#), and in the image below)

PIKININI PLAYTIME, Luganville

- Children brush 3 -4 minutes early morning before class starts and are supervised at all times.
- Tooth brushing is improving at school kids at kindy. Children get their routine on brushing teeth everyday as usual when they are at school. Children give their feedback that they feeling good and fresh when they brush their teeth every day and it helps them at home too to brush their teeth.

SANTO EAST, Luganville

- Children brush for 3 minutes after snack 9.45am and sometimes use pea sized toothpaste and sometimes are encouraged to spit out.
- This GFTS project is very good and helps children's teeth. Comparing the past, sometimes children were absent because of tooth ache, but this year the result is none.



SANTO EAST, Luganville

- Children are supervised. Children brush for 5 minutes in the morning and always use pea sized toothpaste and always are encouraged to spit out (NOT rinse)
- A good healthy promoting program which students enjoy at all tooth brushing sessions. They are developing this healthy habit at their early age which is very good. Always looking forward to too brushing times even children reminded teachers when teachers forget.



Recommendations made recently by the supervising dentist in the Vanuatu Ministry of health, Julianne Tevi, are shown below:

- Need more awareness for teachers/principals in School on diet as they are the ones providing access to sugary products to their school children in some schools.
- Parental education on the importance of good oral health affecting their children general health
- Though sweet drink policy has been endorsed in most health promoting schools in Luganville, the children continue to have access to sugary drinks in school compounds. Schools must enforce school diet policy, canteen policy and sweet drink policy
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste were distributed to each school and children every year. Unless each school has a tooth brushing policy in place, the children will not utilize these toothbrushes effectively and efficiently.
- Each school to at least enforce 3 minutes toothbrushing policy as part of their daily routine before class begins or after lunch break.
- A designated vehicle /Dental caravan to carry out school dental treatment at their door step.
- Funding must be allocated for school health program for Sanma
- Funding must be made available for materials



"What do the teachers say?" video link is [HERE](#), and in the image above

ADIA - 2021 Oral Health Partnership Award

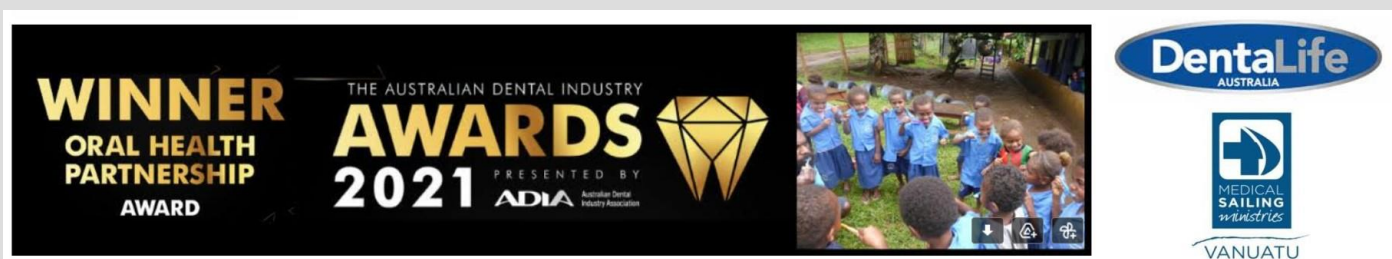
Each year the Australian Dental Industry Association (ADIA) hold a convention for member corporations; all associated in some way with the oral health industry. Everyone from Colgate down.

This year the convention was in Melbourne, and DentaLife Australia, (our partner in the development of the Gudfala Tut Paste) featured their involvement on their promotional stand. They also entered the Gudfala Tut Skul Program in the annual ADIA Awards, and as things turned out ... much to the excitement of everyone ... they / we ... WON!!



Click [HERE](#) to download the Gudfala Tut brochure

As you can see from the photos, it really was a big event, with full credit going to our grassroots, on-the-ground partners at PCV Health and the Vanuatu Ministry of Health for making it happen ... where it counts, in the Vanuatu classrooms.



Above: Images from the ADIA Convention, held in Melbourne in May 2021, where DentaLife Australia won the 2021 Oral Health Partnership Award for their work with MSM Inc. and Gudfala Tut Skul in Vanuatu

Grants – FDI, ICD & Rotary (Luganville)

We are greatly indebted to the generosity of several donors with successful grants to expand the Gudfala Tut Skul Program coming from the Geneva-based FDI World Dental Federation, the International College of Dentists – two years running – and Rotary International.

In all, the grants have totalled close to \$AUS30,000, which has underpinned the initial development of the program and the expansion to date, expected to reach 42 Kindys and schools next year

Securing long term, ongoing funding, remains one of our highest priorities, however, so that we can assist the Vanuatu Ministry of Health expand the program into the 300+ urban Kindys and Schools, where the 2017 Oral Health Survey revealed that tooth decay and gum disease is more than twice as bad as in rural and remote regions.



MSM greatly appreciates the grants, as well as the recognition, given by key sponsors

Gudfala Smiles Nurse Training Program (Pilot Program)

It all happened so quickly. The World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Port Vila, Dr Tsogy, was talking with the WHO “Healthy Ageing Consultant for Oral Health” in Manila, Dr Yuriko, who made contact with the Oral Health Unit in the Vanuatu Ministry of Health, Dr Jenny. Pretty soon, Medical Sailing Ministries was involved and the question was ... would we like to lodge an oral health funding application with the UK-based organization, the ... [“Borrow Foundation”](#).

The quick answer was **YES!** But there was less than 10 days before the close-off date. It was definitely time to slip into top gear. After some initial discussion around potential oral health projects worthy of funding, in the end, Dr Barry Stewart enthusiastically put forward the idea to ... develop an oral health training course for non-dental, health professionals. In particular midwives, maternal health nurses, final year nursing students and health educators, with a view to impacting the oral health of pre-schoolers. Because, again, as the 2017 Oral Health Survey revealed, tooth decay and gum disease is already affecting around 70% of children by the time they get to age 5-7.



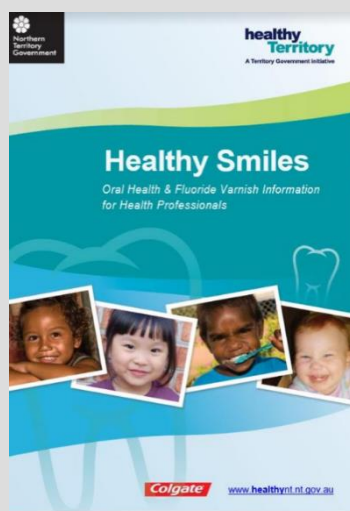
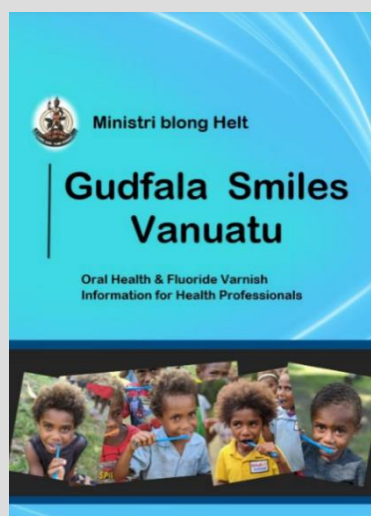
In the end, our Vanuatu oral health colleagues named the program ... **“Gudfala Smiles Nurse Training Program”**.

As it turned out, Dr Barry, was already aware of an excellent, training course – [“Healthy Smiles”](#) – developed by the Department of Health in the Northern Territory (Australia) and in operation for over 10 years.

After a few emails, Barry soon obtained the necessary approval from the NT, “Oral Health Training Coordinator – Health Improvement Section”, to modify their Healthy Smiles program for the Vanuatu context.

A sincere THANK-YOU to the NT Department of Health!

And if that wasn't sufficient good news, appreciating the importance of the training course, the WHO Port Vila representative made the commitment that if the Borrow Foundation grant of around \$AUS30,000, doesn't eventuate, (with a decision expected in mid-December, 2021) then they will step in and provide the funding from their own budget!



A massive thank-you to the NT Department of Health for granting permission to modify their Healthy Smiles program to the Vanuatu context, AND the WHO for underwriting the funding, in the event that the Borrow Foundation application is unsuccessful.

Appointing an Oral Health Projects Coordinator

Recognising the importance of maintaining the oral health momentum of the past few years, and the success of the Gudfala Tut Skul Program, the regional WHO office has agreed to fund the appointment of, what is being called, an Oral Health Projects Coordinator.

The appointment will for 12 months, with their major duties being:

- Gudfala Tut Skul Program, and
- Gudfala Smile Nurse Training Course.

Whilst only a one-year contract, the adoption of a national approach to oral health prevention and education strategies is at a critical stage in Vanuatu. All agree that NOW is the time to build local resources and the processes required to increase sustainability.

After all, when you consider the long-term, national cost of tooth decay and gum disease and its associated illnesses – quite apart from the pain and suffering – then money spent on oral health prevention and education must surely be consider a saving, NOT an expense.



More Great News for Oral Health

As we all know, if you want to fix a problem, **FIRST**, the problem needs to be clearly identified. So, in a move that can only be good for the Gudfala Tut Skul Program, and oral health more generally, we are pleased to report on the following announcement from the World Health Organisation ...

[World Health Assembly Resolution paves the way for better oral health care](#)

NEWS RELEASE: 27 May 2021

More than 3.5 billion people suffer from oral diseases. Untreated dental caries (tooth decay) in permanent teeth is the most common. Severe periodontal (gum) disease affects almost 10% of the global population and more than 530 million children suffer from dental caries of primary teeth. Oral diseases disproportionally affect the poor and socially-disadvantaged populations. Most oral diseases have been linked with other noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers, pneumonia, obesity and premature birth.

Most oral health conditions are largely preventable and can be treated in their early stages but treatment is often not affordable as usually not part of universal health coverage packages. The use of fluoride, which can substantially reduce the risk of dental caries, remains inaccessible in many parts of the world.

The World Health Assembly approved today a historic Resolution on oral health. The Resolution urges Member States to address key risk factors of oral diseases shared with other noncommunicable diseases such as high intake of free sugars, tobacco use and harmful use of alcohol, and to enhance the capacities of oral health professionals. It also recommends a shift from the traditional curative approach towards a preventive approach that includes promotion of oral health within the family, schools and workplaces, and includes timely, comprehensive and inclusive care within the primary health-care system. During the discussion, clear agreement emerged that oral health should be firmly embedded within the noncommunicable disease agenda and that oral health-care interventions should be included in universal health coverage programmes.

The World Health Assembly delegates asked WHO: to develop, by 2022, a draft global strategy on tackling oral diseases for consideration by WHO governing bodies in 2022 and by 2023; to translate the global strategy into an action plan for oral health; to develop "best buy" interventions on oral health; and to explore the inclusion of noma (a disease which is fatal for 90% of children affected) within the roadmap for neglected tropical diseases 2021-2030.

WHO was asked to report back on progress and results until 2031 as part of the consolidated report on noncommunicable diseases.

Related links: [Proposed Resolution on oral health – January 2021](#)

[Consolidated report by the Director-General to the May 2021 World Health Assembly](#) (P 18)



TOOTH BUDDIES – Building a long-term funding solution ...

For around the cost of two cappuccinos a Vanuatu child can participate in the Gudfala Tut Skul Program ... for a whole year.



Two cappuccinos ... it's not a lot to pay!

Furthermore, as we had discovered, there are a lot of individuals, companies, groups and organisations, in both Australia and New Zealand, that would be prepared to get involved; to lend a hand. Maybe NOT giving up coffee, but definitely chipping in to ensure more Vanuatu Kindys and schools can participate in the Gudfala Tut Skul Program. Leading to healthier teeth, healthier kids and healthier lives.

Enter ... **TOOTH BUDDIES** ... a recent initiative ... still in the development stage ... that will make it easier for everyone to get on board.

Tooth Buddies will operate a bit like a sponsorship program.

On one side you'll have willing donors and on the other side will be the participating Kindies and Schools in Vanuatu. Communication and feedback between the two sides will add further meaning to the relationship; providing feedback on progress and the impact being made. The hope will also be for it to be an ongoing arrangement, so as to bring about long lasting change.

Stay tuned for more details as the concept is trialled and further developed next year



Website Upgrade

Whilst there have been quite a few successes this year, in terms of the expansion of the oral health program in Vanuatu, it's fair to say that in the area of communications – which includes the MSM website – there is definitely room for improvement.

We apologise for any frustration or confusion caused, but rest assured, we are working on the matter and hope to have things back on track in the first quarter of next year.



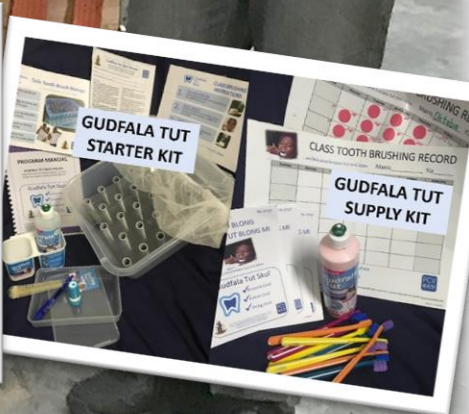
Bamboo Brush Holder

Our bamboo toothbrush holder has now been tested in a field, with early results giving it a big tick.



SECTION TWO

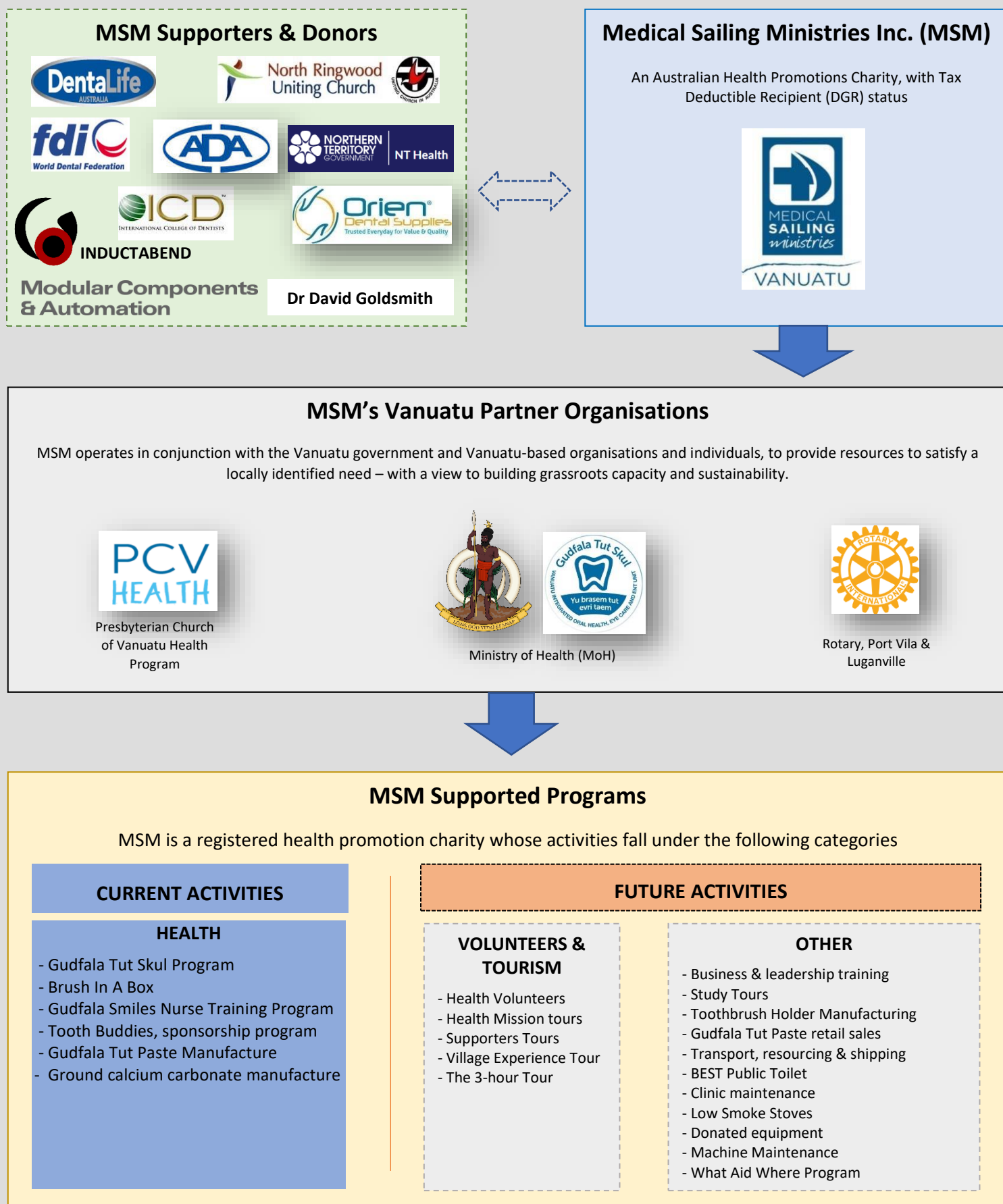
MSM Structures & Priorities



Packing another consignment of Gudfala Tut Skul resources with sincere thanks to Wes and Ross at **Modular Components & Automation** and Barry at **Inductabend** for their amazing assistance. One providing their factory to store and pack, the other to pay the freight !

MSM Operational Diagram

The following diagram provides an illustration of how Medical Sailing Ministries Inc. operates in partnership with others to deliver health and other assistance in Vanuatu

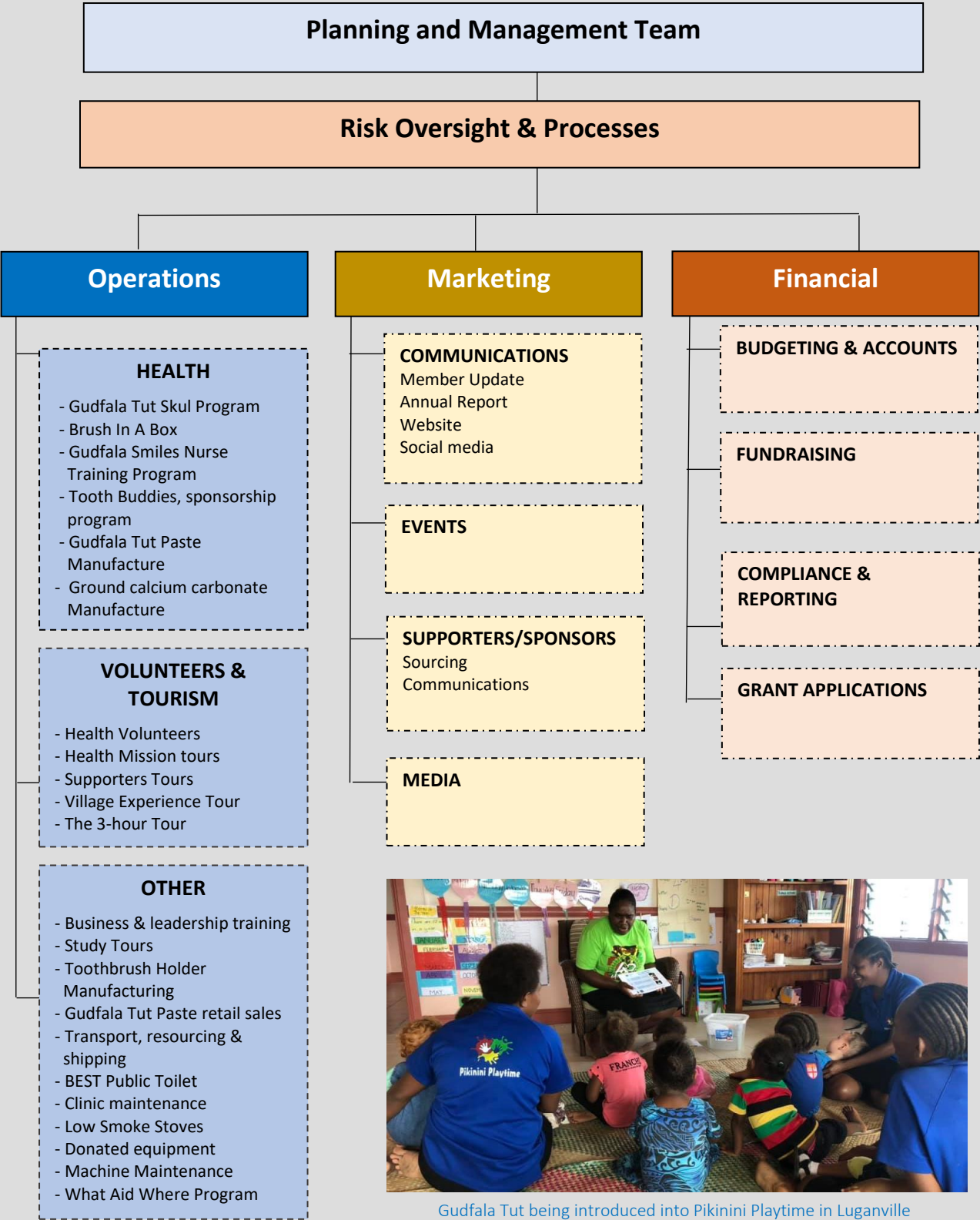


MSM Organisational Chart

The following diagram provides an illustration of how Medical Sailing Ministries Inc. is structured. As a volunteer organization, the skills, experience and resources of committed individuals are put to best use in operating as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Whilst we appear to be involved in a range of diverse activities, they all work to support our Purpose as a “health promoting charity”.

If you feel called to participate as a volunteer, in whatever way possible, we’d love to hear from you.



Current Priorities

Medical Sailing Ministry's current priorities are summarized below:

Fund Raising for Sustainability

Background

MSM is currently devoting most of its income to the resourcing and expansion of the Gudfala Tut Skul Program, making best use of grants and donations wherever possible.

Our big challenge, however, as the tooth brushing program is introduced into more and more locations, is sustainability. Meaning, that if a new Kindy or School comes on board, it's important that resources are available to ensure they can remain on board, year after year. After all, the best results from brushing come about when it's regular, supervised and long-term.

Managing the Gudfala Tut Program – in terms of resourcing, communications, transport, compliance and monitoring – is reasonably straight forward when only 5, 10, or 20 sites are involved. Even up to 30, or 40 sites, which will be the situation next year, the current structure is just able manage. But any more than this and the program will find it hard to cope – based on the existing, available resources and staffing in Vanuatu.

MSM funds are currently in place to support the program for the next 12-18 months, but what happens if no more money is received from grant applications, what then?

A 5-Year Plan - Seeking Donor Funding

Last year we worked with the Integrated Oral Health Unit in Port Vila to develop a 5-Year, million-dollar, Oral Health Plan, to expand Gudfala Tut to more than 350 sites, covering 100% of the urban Kindies and Schools, where we know tooth decay and gum disease is most severe; due to the ready access to sweets and sugary treats. To date, no international donor has committed to the program, which would be of immense value to the health and wellbeing of the country. NOT a cost, in fact, a saving.



Tooth Buddies

In the meantime, we continue to look for Grant and Donation opportunities but at the same time will be developing the "Tooth Buddies" initiative, as mentioned earlier in this report.

Through Tooth Buddies we hope to harness the immense goodwill in both Australia and New Zealand, towards Vanuatu. Whether it be a memorable holiday, or cruise ship experience we've had, or in seeing the assistance provided in times of crisis, such as tropical cyclones, Tooth Buddies will provide a grassroots, meaningful way to connect with the people of Vanuatu. After all, if we can't take an overseas holiday there, why not commit a fraction of that cost to sponsoring improved oral health in a Kindy or school.

If you feel gifted and able to commit, or have ideas you'd like to share, in the development of Tooth Buddies, then feel free to get in touch.

Retail Sales of Gudfala Tut Paste

Based on success of the Gudfala Tut Paste in the Vanuatu school brushing program thought has been given to developing a retail offering of the product.

After all, despite the seemingly crowded toothpaste and oral health market, have you ever been offered an amazingly fresh, coconut oil-based toothpaste in choices of Mint, Bubblegum and Tropical flavours, where 100% of the profits go to supporting the expansion of a school brushing program in a wonderful country like Vanuatu? Not only that, it's actually made in Vanuatu, supporting local employment and business

No, I didn't think so. As an aside, Gudfala Tut Paste (in Mint flavour) is ALL I have used, day and night, for the past 2 years. And whilst my recommendation is obviously biased, I've got to say, it's really good!! As it says on the bottle ... *"I naes tumas"* (It's extremely nice)

In partnership with DentaLife, this strategy will certainly be given more attention next year.



Gudfala Tut Skul Program

Managing & Resourcing 40 Sites

Working with our PCV Health and Vanuatu Ministry of Health partners to maintain the expected forty Gudfala Tut Skul sites in 2022, will be major exercise next year.

The on-the-ground work is naturally being done by our Ni-Vanuatu colleagues, but it currently falls to Mike Clarke to ensure each of the program's elements are in stock, and ready to be dispatched ... to wherever they need to go.

As for the "elements" ... they include everything from Posters, National Standards, Teacher Instruction Manual, Blu Tac and Plaque Disclosing Gel ... through to Toothbrushes (LOTS – for school and home) Toothpaste (pink, bubblegum flavour Gudfala Tut Paste of course) Stickers and Home Brushing Record Booklets. There's also the choice of English, Bislama or French versions, depending on the location.

The schools and kindies already in the program will only need a supply of consumables – called the "Supply Kit", whereas new sites will also need a "Starter Kit" which includes the toothbrush holder; one of the more expensive items in the program, but fortunately something that will last a long time.

In planning for the year ahead, the key questions to be addressed include ...

How many new and existing sites?

Their locations and the number of children involved?

What stock is already held in Port Vila and Luganville?

What extra stock needs to be sent from Melbourne?

Morinda and Bob handle most of these matters, (in consultation with Mike), including the making of the Gudfala Tut Paste, which is packaged in the refillable 500ml containers

As mentioned earlier in this report, if all goes to plan in 2022, the WHO will be funding an Oral Health Project Coordinator who will be able to work closely with Bob and Morinda on a day-to-day basis, to refine the management and administration process still further.



Gudfala Tut Skul storage container at PCV, Port Vila



Bob and Morinda taking charge of Gudfala Tut Skul resourcing from Port Vila



Above: We need to grind the coral down to around 10-12 microns to make it suitable for making the Gudfala Tut Paste

Below: Looking pretty suspect ... Mike and Rob transfer precipitate calcium carbonate from big bags to little bags, before shipping to Vanuatu



Ground Calcium Carbonate from land-gathered coral

Having established that Vanuatu land-gathered coral – used instead of gravel to make concrete – is 99.8% pure calcium carbonate, with no impurities, we are still in the process of incorporating it into the Gudfala Tut Paste formulation to confirm, beyond doubt, that it truly is a suitable replacement for the "precipitate" calcium carbonate we currently use.

Whether it's from a natural "ground" source, or a chemical process, it's essentially the same material ... CaCO_3 ... so we are confident we are on the right track.

Assuming the money can be found, it may, or may not, be viable to invest capital to start production in Vanuatu. There are a lot of factors that need to be taken into account, including ... the volumes required, finding additional markets for surplus output, where should it be located and who will operate it. Hopefully, an easing of the COVID19 travel restrictions next year will enable us to work more on this project.

Gudfala Smile Nurse Training Program

We mentioned this on an earlier page, but the introduction of an oral health training course for non-dental nurses and health educators, is a major development; and a key recommendation of the 2017 National Oral Health Survey and the Vanuatu Oral Health Policy 2019-2023.

When it comes to caring for our teeth, prevention really is better than the cure. And the sooner this takes place – like, as soon as a baby is born – the better. Educating the mid-wives, maternal health nurses, new mothers and all those with an interest in a child's early development – and for this to translate into changed behaviour – will go a long way to arresting the high levels of tooth decay and gum disease; particularly in the urban centres.

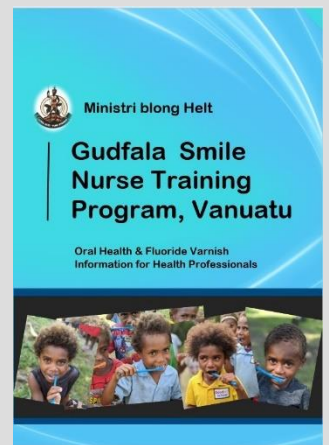
With the aid of the, to-be-appointed, Oral Health Projects Coordinator – funded by the World Health Organisation – we hope to be able to report on successful progress this time next year.

Again, our sincere thanks go to the Northern Territory (Aust) Health Department for providing permission for us to modify their "Healthy Smiles" course for the Vanuatu context.

Children need baby teeth to:-

- eat and grow
- talk clearly
- give shape to jaws and face
- keep space for the adult teeth
- smile and feel good

Give your child's teeth a healthy start



Below: Bob holds the floor, as only he can, on the topic of caring for your teeth.



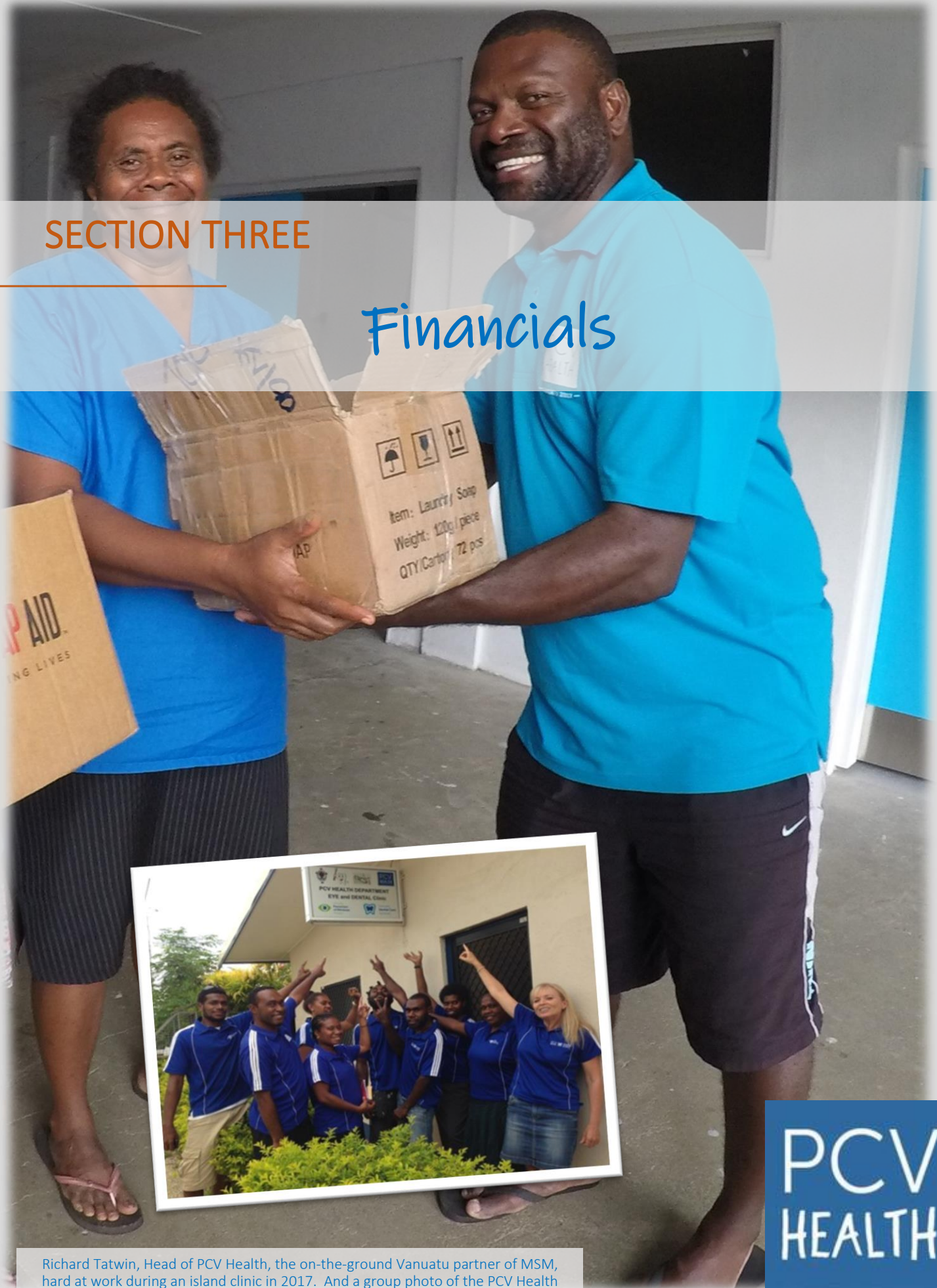
Above: Dr Julie demonstrates oral health fundamentals to group of older students, Luganville. 4/2021 (Vanuatu Oral Health Watch Facebook Post)



Above: National Brushing Day (19th July) @ Tautu Primary School, Malekula. (Vanuatu Oral Health Watch Facebook Post, 7/2020)

SECTION THREE

Financials



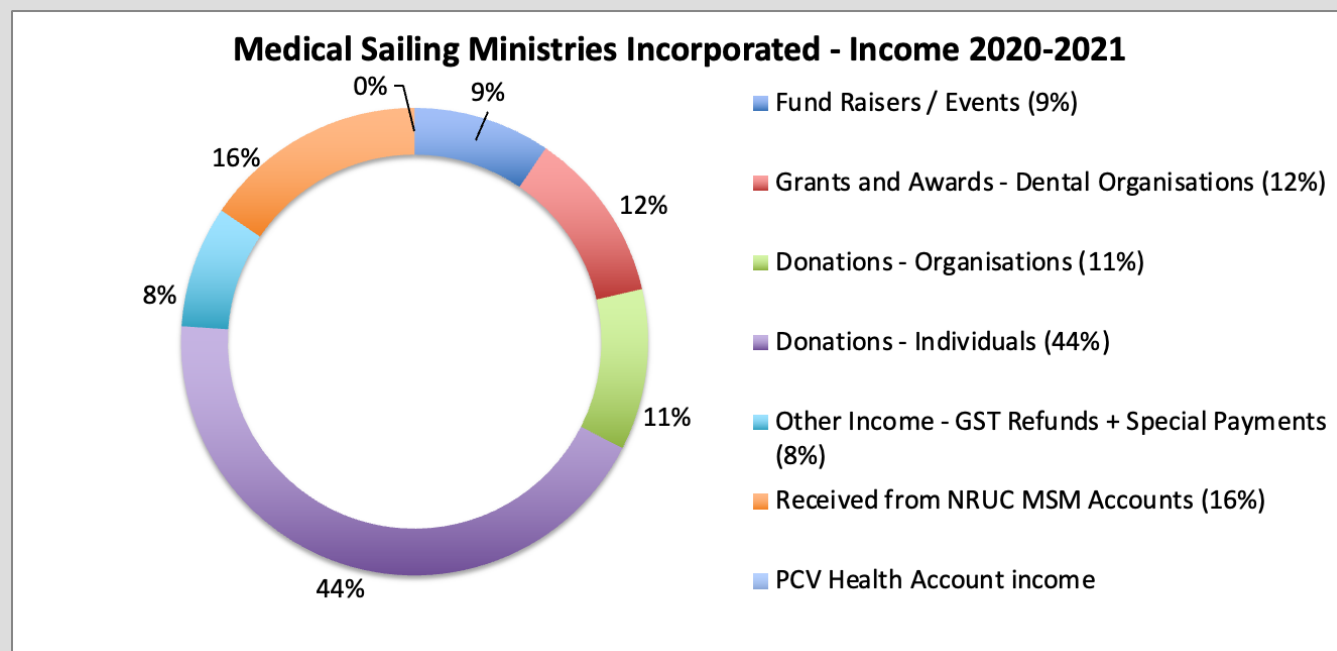
Richard Tatwin, Head of PCV Health, the on-the-ground Vanuatu partner of MSM, hard at work during an island clinic in 2017. And a group photo of the PCV Health team outside the clinic in Port Vila

PCV
HEALTH

Financial Summary

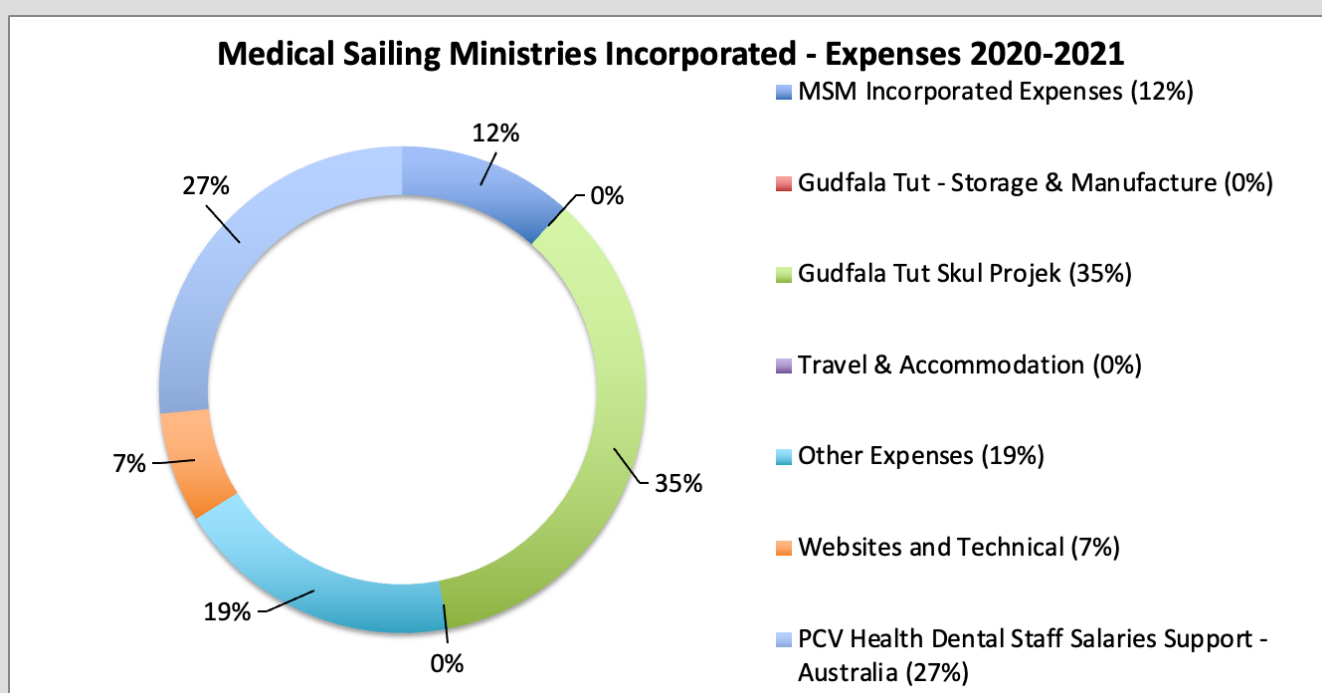
The following graphs and statement provide a summary of MSM's income and expenses for the year to 30 June 2021.

WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM ...



Total income of \$34,254 in the year ending 30 June 2021

WHERE THE MONEY WENT ...



Total expenses of \$16,651 in the year ending 30 June 2021

FINANCIAL SUMMARY...

A summary of the audited accounts, for the period shown, is shown below:

Medical Sailing Ministries Incorporated Consolidated accounts for period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

INCOME

Fund Raisers / Events	\$3,250
Grants and Awards (Dental Organisations)	\$4,075
Donations - Organisations	\$3,815
Donations - Individuals:	\$14,910
Other Income (GST Refunds + Special Payments)	\$2,890
Received from NRUC MSM Accounts	\$5,313
PCV Health Account income	\$0

Total Income \$34,254

EXPENSES

MSM Incorporated Expenses	\$1,928
Gudfala Tut (Storage & Manufacture)	\$0
Gudfala Tut Skul Projek	\$5,896
Travel & Accommodation	\$0
Other Expenses	\$3,181
Websites and Technical	\$1,219
PCV Health Dental Staff Salaries Support (Australia)	\$4,426

Total Expenditure (\$16,651)

Excess of Income over Expenditure \$17,603

SUMMARY

MSM Inc for period ended 30 June 2020		MSM Inc for year ended 30 June 2021
\$1,248	Bank Balance at start of year	\$11,327
\$47,434	Income	\$34,254
\$35,892	Expenses	\$16,651
\$12,789	Bank Balance at end of year	\$28,930

BANK

MSM Inc for period ended 30 June 2020		MSM Inc for year ended 30 June 2021
\$12,789	Bank Balances as at 30 June 2021	\$28,930
\$10,782	MSM Inc Account	\$25,749
\$544	Gudfala Tut Account	\$3,181
\$1,463	PCV Health Funds (Gudfala Tut)*	\$0

* Gudfala Funds under PCV Health control, no longer included in MSM Accounts

SCHOOL TOOTH BRUSHING PROGRAM

SECTION FOUR

Vanuatu

Join with Us

PCV
HEALTH



VANUATU

A partnership to improve the oral health of the nation

Gudfala Tut

Make a Contribution – as a volunteer or donor

As a volunteer organisation, Medical Sailing Ministries relies on the generosity of individuals to operate – donating what they have ... money, time, skills or resources; with our tax-deductible status being a useful bonus for some.

As we plan next year's activities, we again seek donations to increase the possibilities for expanding our work on the ground in Vanuatu. If you feel able to give something at this time, the details can be found here ...

[DONATE TO MSM Inc. HERE](#)

In addition to direct donations, there is also the opportunity to support, or sponsor, a specific area of activity we are currently undertaking. These activities have been mentioned earlier in this Annual Report and so if you feel able to lend a hand, then we'd love to hear from you.



GUDFALA TUT PIKININI PAK

The gift of one or more [Gudfala Tut Pikinini Packs](#) can be the gift that keeps on giving ... helping to create a lifetime of healthy living for a child in Vanuatu. All "Pikinini Packs" will be distributed to parents of children in greatest need, as revealed in the National Oral Health Survey 2017.



ANYTIME is a good time to give a Gudfala Tut Pikinini Pack not at tooth hurty ...

Just \$15

The gift of one or more Gudfala Tut Pikinini Packs can be the gift that keeps on giving ... helping to create a lifetime of healthy living for a child in Vanuatu. All "Pikinini Packs" will be distributed to parents of children in greatest need, as revealed in the National Oral Health Survey 2017.

STEP 1 Make Payment
Via direct bank credit, or cheque ...
ANZ Bank: BSB 013-403
A/c Number: 3138-09003
A/c Name: MSM Inc.
Or, send a cheque to: "Medical Ministries Inc" c/- 29 Wonga Rd Ringwood, VIC 3134

STEP 2 Send Email
Send an email to gudfala@gudfala.org.au confirming the following details:
▼ Your name & postal address
▼ Date & amount of deposit
▼ Optional: Name of the person buying the gift for, so personalised gift certificate you

Remember, it's \$15 for 1 Pack, \$45 for 3 Packs, -

... TURNING THIS ... INTO THIS.

To: _____

From: _____

I've gifted improved oral health on your behalf to a child in Vanuatu – a present that keeps on giving, morning and night!

The Gudfala Tut Pikinini Pack (Healthy Teeth Child) provides nearly all the elements of the school supervised brushing program, including Vanuatu-made, coconut oil-base (sugar free) pink, bubblegum fluoride toothpaste to last a child 6 months. Visit www.msm.org.au or search "Gudfala Tut" Facebook to discover more.

12/2013

Gudfala Tut Skul
Yu brasem tut evri taem
VANUATU
www.msm.org.au

Access the Gudfala Tut Pikinini Pack [HERE](#)



www.msm.org.au