

Giving Our ongoing commitment

Mental health care is a new discipline in Vietnam. Significant guidance to implement new programmes will be required.

Orthopaedic standards have progressed but - as with cervical cancer prevention & care - there remains a long way to go.

The World Health Organisation has defined health education & development work like our neonatal programme as a Millennium Goal.

If you can help - please join us.

We warmly welcome the support of new & rejoining members. We also welcome expressions of interest from philanthropic or charitable funders.

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NZ | VN
health trust

Sustaining New Zealand's
Vietnam-based health support



50 YEARS OF HEALTH PROVISION &
EDUCATION IN BINH DINH | 1963 - 2013

Why join us?

New Zealand is struggling to maintain a 50-year commitment to improving health outcomes in Vietnam

NZ | VN Health Trust formed in 1997, building on a legacy & relationships established by Kiwi medics & surgeons in Binh Dinh Province, Vietnam, between 1963 & 1975. For more than a decade the NZ | VN Health Trust received NZAID funding. This was discontinued as aid priorities changed. However, our health education & training work continues on a voluntary basis. The local Department of Health continues to provide crucial project support. However, we're now at a stage where our efforts are unlikely to continue without additional financial support.

Please consider our work & achievements - and how you & your organisation can offer financial or administrative support.

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There are many potential benefits to sustaining New Zealand's health promotion & education efforts in Vietnam.

These include:

Meeting an ongoing need for health services
Honouring long-standing relationships
Fostering potential NZ | VN trade partnerships

Trustees, members & volunteers share a strong belief that due to our shared legacies, NZ must maintain its debt and support Vietnam. It would be a great shame for us to lose these very positive connections & relationships that now span a half-century.

Of particular significance are our long-term, ongoing programmes:

Neonatal Paediatric (since 2001)

Orthopaedic

Mental Health

Women's Health

We've been asked to commence other programmes, but cannot afford to do so.

The New Zealand Embassy in Hanoi opened in November 1995; the US partially lifted its trade embargo in 1996. It was finally, lifted in 2000.

In 1996 medical teams from Quy Nhon & Bong Son reunited in Wellington. The health trust was set up soon after. Our health & educational initiatives in Binh Dinh have been ongoing since then.

We have provided medical help requested by the Binh Dinh Department of Health, including: anaesthetics , general surgery , orthopaedics, ophthalmology, laboratory and radiology. Our women's health programmes focus on cervical cancer screening. In recent years we've expanded into mental health and paediatric programmes. Neonatal developments in Binh Dinh are upheld as an example of what is possible, but there remains a long way to go.

Without significant new financial support the health trust will struggle to survive

History

The Vietnam War years

The New Zealand Surgical Team was based in Quy Nhon, Binh Dinh at the Province Hospital between 1963 and 1975. The New Zealand Services Medical Team was stationed 100-kilometres further north at Bong Son, Binh Dinh from 1967 to 1971. The New Zealand Red Cross also had aid teams in central Vietnam during this time.

Vital programmes are on hold while we seek funding support

Over this time too (at a time when Binh Dinh had 6 doctors for a population of at least a million – now several million) there worked in Binh Dinh a New Zealand paediatrician, Dr Margaret Neave. Her efforts in establishing baby clinics, both at Province Hospital and in the highland areas are remembered and revered today.

After the war

At the end of New Zealand's Vietnam War in 1975, Vietnam became isolated from the international community. Even New Zealanders' with close associations were unable to return.

International relations resumed around 1990, and a small group of those New Zealanders returned to Quy Nhon. They found a hospital struggling with minimal medicine and equipment, and a people wanting help. A desperate situation was documented in a *Frontline* episode (which we can share if you would like to view it).

Those preceding current Trustees left a legacy of goodwill for all New Zealanders among the people of Quy Nhon and Binh Dinh. A little of the health trust's 50 year legacy and vision for the future is explained in the special online anniversary publication *50th anniversary for NZ medics in Vietnam*

<http://bit.ly/1fA9sOU>

All our work is now based on volunteer time & effort, donations and membership subscriptions. We self-fund most education & training efforts.

In January 1992 New Zealand (NZ) Volunteer Service Abroad, (VSA) led a group of 12 NZ non-government organisations who began work in Quy Nhon.



A maintenance engineer was assigned to ensuring essential equipment functioned in the hospital.

An aid program at the Leprosarium Hospital, Quy Hoa. Under the auspices of Volunteer Ophthalmic Surgeons Overseas it addressed eye deformities caused by leprosy, and did cataract operations.

LabNZ, based in Christchurch, started programmes retraining staff in the laboratories of the Province and City Hospitals.

A Surgical Team returned for a teaching visit in May 1996 to teach & train in anaesthesia, general surgery, orthopaedics & midwifery/obstetrics.