

## **Proposed Rotary visit to the Cook Islands; October 2009**

The priorities for the Cook Islands Dental Department of the Ministry of Health, ( as identified by the Chief Dental Office, Dr George Hosking) are;

1. A comprehensive Preventive Dental Health program for Cook Islands schools
2. A new Dental Prosthetic Lab. For Rarotonga
3. A new Dental prosthetics lab. for Aitutaki
4. Renovating the dental surgery (and other facilities) at Aitutaki Hospital
5. Further education and training in Dental Prosthetics, Implants, Orthodontics and Equipment maintenance

### **1. Prosthetics Lab.**

On last year's visit to the Cook Islands we renovated the dental clinics with new cabinetry in all 6 surgeries. This has made an enormous difference to the whole clinic. And it will stay looking good because the staff at Rarotonga are meticulous with cleaning and looking after their equipment which is all quite old, but looks much newer than it is. i.e they can be relied on look after the place!

However the dental prosthetics Lab. is very shabby. The benchtops are cracked and uneven, and most of the cabinetry is rotten and unhygienic. Last year we measured the dimensions of the lab. I have obtained quotes for custom fitted cabinets from the same company that proved the cabinets last year

We would also like to do similar work on the island of [Aitutaki](#) where the lab. is currently inoperable and has a waiting list of 38 patients (as at Nov.08)

Flat pack cabinets would be transported to Rarotonga and assembled by the Rotary team on the spot.

.Ballarat West Rotarian Bill Davies will oversee the whole works and also do clinical training.

### **2. Preventive Oral Health;**

Annette Davey is a Dental Therapist and was in charge of Oral Health Promotion with DHSV in Melbourne until recently relocating to Tasmania. Annette has been in contact with the Colgate Global task force in VIC & SA & has already got the ball rolling. She is very keen to be involved in designing a comprehensive program of preventive dental health education for the Cook Islands and to do this as part of a Rotary dental volunteer team. The potential for a comprehensive program like this to also be used elsewhere in the Pacific is enormous.

### **3. Further Education and Training and Operative Clinical work**

Last year we did clinical work and/or training in Orthodontic appliances, Dental Prosthetics, Titanium implants and Rotary Endodontics. These were totally new techniques for the Cook Islands at the time. We would like to do follow-up work in these fields to consolidate and extend the clinical work we did last time. The professional Ballarat volunteers (Bill Davies, Dr Toni McNicol, Dr John Williams) who came last time are all keen to return with another Rotary volunteer team again this year. Toni McNicol will teach how to make simple tooth movements with braces and leave the brackets/wires etc. to continue the work. John Williams will show how to apply implants to retain dentures.

### **What we need; \$30,000 via a RF Match Grant for;**

Funding to ship a Rotary DIK container to Rarotonga and Aitutaki – est. freight cost ; \$6500

Dental Cabinetry for Rarotonga and Aitutaki – plans (estimate ~ \$17,000) attached.

Titanium Implants, Orthodontic Brackets and NiTi wires, Prosthetic and Prosthodontic materials

Funding for Toothbrushes, toothpaste and some promotional material – Est. \$4000 to provide every schoolchild in the Cook Islands with their own toothbrush and toothpaste & promotional materials.

The Rotary Club of Rarotonga has confirmed they are keen to join with us in another Matching Grant in 2009

If Ballarat South Rotary could help the project with funding of \$15,000 then this project will definitely go ahead in October and the Cook Islands public dental services will have modern facilities to be proud of.

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