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Taking Paediatrics Abroad: Working with low- and middle-income countries in a global pandemic

Taking Paediatrics Abroad (TPA: www.takingpaediatricsabroad.org.au) is a registered Australian charity founded in 2019. TPA enhances care for children with complex medical problems. It does this by enabling the collaboration of Australian paediatric subspecialists with treating clinicians in low resource countries (LRC) in the Asia-Pacific region and in remote locations for Australian Aboriginal children. Clinical education sessions are provided on requested topics and supportive, respectful conversations enhance wellbeing for all. The care-giving capabilities of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals are enhanced, helping to save lives and strengthen health systems. Timely subspecialty guidance about actual cases enables the refinement of management, follow-up of progress, debriefing and crystallization of key learnings. Now in its 6th year, TPA has delivered > 1170 hours of vibrant meetings via Zoom, within a mutually enriching and respectful learning environment. As a result, lives have been saved, and health systems have strengthened. TPA also facilitates face-to-face volunteer visits for clinical skills training. For Nurses, weekly education sessions addressing requested topics are conducted in the South Pacific, monthly in Cambodia. Slides and current guidelines are shared, with attentiveness to the challenging context of LRCs. An example is through a collaboration with colleagues from like-minded organisations in the LRC Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Australian College of Neonatal Nurses (ACNN). Monthly presentations by expert clinical neonatal nurse educators encompass the assessment and management of a broad range of neonatal conditions. ACNN colleagues have also undertaken face-to-face training in the Solomon Islands and Tonga. Additional TPA projects include support for a research project in newborn screening for congenital hypothyroidism in the Solomon Islands, and support for the establishment of a child protection service at the National Paediatric Hospital in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Feedback from colleagues endorses TPA's highly valued impact in boosting paediatric practice and enhancing clinician wellbeing.

Keywords: Taking Paediatrics Abroad: supporting Asia-Pacific health professionals

Biography

FOUNDER and Managing Director, Taking Paediatrics Abroad <https://www.linkedin.com/company/taking-paediatrics-abroad> A paediatric doctor, medical educator and leader, with broad ranging Australian and international experience. Dedicated to furthering improvements in the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Australia and globally. Previously Executive Principal of the Sydney Child Health Program from 1997 to 2018. Kathryn's commitment for advancing the health and rights of children and young people globally is a life-long passion.