

Welcome!

Welcome to our first supporter newsletter

Two years ago Dr Noel Bayley went public about the plight of two East Timorese teenagers, Flavia Lucilda Guterres, 19, and Ursula de Carvalho Soares, 17, who faced death from heart disease because of a lack of funds to bring them to Australia for treatment.

The resulting flood of individual and corporate generosity saw the birth of East Timor Hearts Fund, a medical aid organisation established to arrange life-saving treatment in Australia for young East Timorese suffering from heart disease.

We started out with the modest aim of raising \$100,000 annually in cash and in-kind support to assist at least five patients a year. This month our eighth patient, 22 year old mother of two Imaculada da Conceicao Gusmao, had surgery in Australia. Early in the New Year we expect to bring patients nine and 10 to Australia for treatment. We are proud of what we have achieved- and hope you are as well.

This is the first of what will be a regular supporter newsletter. We hope you enjoy it and share it with friends and family.



Meet our newest patients

Immaculada da Conceicao Gusmao, a 22 year old mother of two, had a valve replacement at Royal Melbourne Hospital this month. We hope to have her back in East Timor so she can enjoy a healthy Christmas with her family.

Lucas Soares, 14, is our youngest patient ever. Lucas has a hole in his heart and is due to have valve replacement surgery in the New Year.

Photos courtesy of Basil Ronaldsen

Our new sponsor

We are thrilled to announce our new corporate partner, Macquarie Telecom, a leading Australian telecommunications and internet company.

As well as financial sponsorship to support medical treatment for our patients, Macquarie Telecom will help promote our work and provide us with IT assistance.

CEO David Tudehope recently travelled to East Timor to see our work in action. We'll share more news about his visit soon.

Our corporate partners

The wonderful organisations that support our work

East Timor Hearts Fund relies on partnerships to make our work possible.

These organisations have been with us from the start:

- Toll Remote Logistics, which flies our patients to Melbourne
- Bairo Pite clinic, our partner in Dili
- MonashHeart, which treats at least two of our patients a year
- St John of God Hospital Warrnambool, which has provided invaluable support for us in our infancy
- Struck & Spink, the graphic design gurus responsible for our logo and other design work.

In addition to these foundation supporters we have been thrilled to welcome new partners in recent months:

- Our pro bono legal advisers Russell Kennedy
- Hotwire PR and CPR Communications and Public Relations
- FullPoint Media
- Visual Innovation Australia
- And of course our new principal sponsor Macquarie Telecom.

A gift with heart

If you would like to give the gift of a donation to East Timor Hearts Fund this festive season, we're making it easier for you. Go to www.easttimorheartsfund.org.au/get-involved to download our great new printable gift certificate!

Meet our new committee

With the support of our pro bono legal advisers at Russell Kennedy, East Timor Hearts Fund recently restructured, and is now a company limited by guarantee. This means that we are now on a sound footing to expand into the future.

Our committee comprises:

- Dr Noel Bayley (medical adviser)
- Glyn Palmer
- Ana Saldanha (volunteer coordinator)
- Naida Beltrame (company secretary and finance director)
- Susan Payne (patient support coordinator)
- Julie Kean
- Ingrid Svendsen (chair and communications adviser).

Get involved!

While lots of things have changed, our reliance on you our supporters has not.

You can assist our work in many ways, including by volunteering to visit or transport a patient or by making a donation.

Please go to our website at www.easttimorheartsfund.org.au/get-involved to learn more.



To receive this newsletter by email, go to the home page at www.easttimorheartsfund.org.au and use the "subscribe to our mailing list" link.