



**One drop at a time
leads to an Ocean**

Annual Report 2017

**Head Office**

Shop 1, Ground Floor
38 Pacific Hwy
St Leonards NSW 2065

Mail address

DAISI PO Box 679 Crows Nest NSW 1585

Unincorporated charity

DAISI is a not-for-profit, Unincorporated Company.

Board Members are our current Directors.

Registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) from 26 January 2016.

Tax concessions and fundraising

Endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as:

- a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR); and
- an income tax exempt charity (holding tax concessions and exemptions relating to income, goods and services, and fringe benefits taxes).

Accreditation

A registered Not-for-profit charity with the

Australian Charities and Not For Profits Commission (ACNC).

Feedback and complaints

Feedback on this report and on our operations and conduct more generally can be sent to staff@daisi.com.au or in writing to:

DAISI PO Box 679 Crows Nest NSW 1585

We will acknowledge feedback and give a response. Complaints relating to a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct can be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee.

About this Annual Report

This Annual Report covers our activities and performance for the financial year period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

It is our aim to be as transparent and accountable as possible to our donors and beneficiaries.

For our donors, this is our way of thanking you and showing extreme appreciation for your generosity.

It is also our way of showing the importance we place on reporting and obtaining audit of our activities, and satisfying our reporting obligations to all stakeholders, including donors, supporters, volunteers, partners, and everyone that has helped to make it work.

By showing our goals and activities, and high level of accountability with detailed annual reporting, we hope that we can inspire you, and continue to earn the trust that we have been privileged to have received so far.

We have also based this report on certain legal requirements expected of us by the ACNC and expected of all responsible charities according to the Code of Conduct of the Australian Council For International Development (ACFID).

Dr Tim Nicholson
Chair

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One drop at a time leads to an Ocean.

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Our Chair's Report



In the two years that I have been elected Chair of DAISI, I have seen the rapid transformation and growth in our membership, and the generosity of my surgical and anaesthetic colleagues has been nothing short of amazing.

Volunteer placements

This year alone, 93 DAISI specialists and nurse volunteers from Australia and New Zealand

have given their time to work in the Solomon Islands, with over 700 patients screened, and 540 operations performed.

Memorandum of understanding

Perhaps the most significant of all achievements, is the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DAISI and the Solomon Islands Ministry for Health. This MoU allows for delivery of volunteer services in each of the provinces of the Solomon Islands, in support and collaboration with the Solomon Islands Ministry for Health, in a coordinated manner with a degree of expectation and accountability between both parties on shared projects. This recent achievement will pave the way for hopefully many more shared DAISI missions with the Solomon Islands Government Ministry for Health.

Laparoscopic Training

Laparoscopic surgery was first introduced to the National Referral Hospital (NRH) in February this year, by a team of colorectal surgeons with a second workshop in April run by Sydney surgeon Prof Charbel Sandroussi. A third laparoscopic workshop was conducted in June. Local surgeon Dr Scott Siota and his registrars are now doing diagnostic laparoscopy and laparoscopic appendicectomy independently, which is a great achievement when you consider the improvisation required.

Medical Student Rotations

DAISI has been able to coordinate many international medical students to attend placement at a number of hospitals in the Solomon Islands. These

rotations are a real eye opener for medical students, and can be quite a life and career-changing event. Medical students also provide invaluable support to these medical and surgical missions, which often have a skeleton crew that is worked to the bone.

Donations

Although DAISI has not actively sought funding, this year has seen a dramatic rise in donations. Many thanks to Dr Veral Vishnoi, from Hunter Resident Medical Officer Association (HRMOA) in Newcastle who along with three colorectal surgeons from the area, was able to raise \$7500 from their fund raiser in August 2017. Special thanks also goes to Olympus and the numerous hospitals that have donated medical and surgical equipment, with particular mention to Mater, Hurstville and Westmead Private Hospitals.

Medical Registration

From July 2017 DAISI volunteers are exempt from having to pay a registration fee to volunteer in the Solomon Islands.

Charity Ball

I welcome everyone

Elections

Sadly, I will be stepping down as Chair at the upcoming elections, as it is time for new candidates to rise to the occasion. I will however remain involved as an active member for the foreseeable future. I would like to offer my gratitude to the support of Gary McKay. His unlimited enthusiasm and hard work for the DAISI cause is inspiring, and I look forward to continued collaboration with him in the future. Thanks also to my fellow board members Sepehr Lajevardi and Gareth Iremonger for their contributions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Nicholson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Tim Nicholson
Chair

A photograph of several surgeons in an operating room. They are wearing green scrubs, blue surgical masks, and caps. One surgeon in the foreground is looking directly at the camera. The background shows medical equipment and a large overhead light fixture.

Lasting **Change** through **Education**

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Teaching others to teach others

I have had the good fortune of a long prosperous career in surgery, and became acquainted with DAISI, only in the last two years, where I accompanied three surgical missions to Munda, Gizo and Taro hospital

Throughout my career, my emphasis and priorities have changed significantly. Now that I'm approaching the end of my career, the importance of making a lasting difference beyond what I myself alone can achieved is becoming all the more clear.



Dr Santee Santhanam teaching simple lipoma excision at Gizo hospital, Western Province of Solomon Islands.

During my time in the Solomon Islands, the desperate need for teaching became abundantly clear to me. With a rapid rise in the number of medical graduates arriving from overseas training from Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Cuba, the landscape of the medical workforce in the Solomon Islands is changing, rapidly, perhaps faster than is manageable. It was not uncommon for the OT theatre to be so filled with so many registrars that there was standing room only, as each attempted to get a glimpse of the first laparoscopic cholecystectomy they had seen. This pure, youthful inquisitiveness took me back in time to memories of my own training as a young surgical trainee, and those memorable events where I felt privileged as a student to be one on one with my senior surgeon as he would share the skills of his craft with me. Realising how impressionable and respectful junior trainees are when they are thirsty for learning, emphasises what an incredible privilege it is to be able to teach surgery to them, knowing that these students will in turn develop and mature, and eventually teach others. This catalytic process could see an entire nation such as the Solomon Islands, have ten, or twenty or even one hundred well trained surgeons over a short period of time.

The biggest challenge is to cultivate and prepare the Solomon Islands medical workforce with suitably skilled doctors that stay in the Solomon islands, in turn teaching others, and resisting the brain drain, and lure of endless possibilities that the "West" has to offer. I believe DAISI's ethos of training doctors and surgeons locally is very important in this regard.

The inclusion of medical students on DAISI visits is also vital and should not be underestimated. They should always be supervised and their role mainly observational.

The teaching of overseas medical students should never be at the expense of not teaching local medical students and doctors. But usually the two are mutually possible. Medical students also bring with them a youthful eagerness to these trips. As an older fella, prone to the occasional melancholy, there is nothing better than a throng of medical students asking questions inquisitively to pick up the overall morale in the operating theatre



Surgical Registrar Dr Clayton Siosi practicing laparoscopic surgery.

A group of surgeons in an operating room, wearing masks and scrubs, focused on a surgical procedure. The scene is brightly lit, with a large window in the background showing a view of trees. The surgeons are wearing various colored scrubs and surgical caps. The text "Collegiate Cooperation & Coordination" is overlaid on the image in white and orange.

Collegiate Cooperation & Coordination

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Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry for Health

In July 2017 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Solomon Islands Ministry for Health and DAISI. This paves the way for a more cooperative collegiate and coordinated approach to future DAISI visits to the Solomon Islands.



Dr Stephen Smith, Dr Robert Winn, Honorable Health Minister Dr Tautau Agikimua Kaitu'u, Dr Matt Rickard, Dr Rooney Jagilly, Dr Gary McKay, Dr Mark Lucey & Dr Eric Yip at dinner in Honiara in February 2017..

Core to this MoU is an understanding that all activities between DAISI and the Ministry for Health represent a joint partnership. The overall aim of this partnership and role of DAISI is to provide assistance where it is needed, mostly in the form of specialist services, but also the donation of surgical equipment. A major emphasis of this MoU is three training of doctors in allied health care workers in the Solomon Islands.

DAISI volunteer Nili Hali, a lawyer who drafted the MoU believes that "charities cannot be effective working in isolation and cannot achieve lasting change without working with and alongside a country's existing government and infrastructure where education is its core".

By working with the Solomon Islands Ministry for Health in all future programs, there will be a shared sense of responsibility for the planning, implementation, and success or failure of projects.

Chair of DAISI Dr Tim Nicholson, believes this shared approach will lead to improved organization of DAISI visits, with greater ownership and therefore involvement of local doctors



Plastics registrar Dr Sepehr Lajevardi and Co-Founder of DAISI is excited about the future prospects of this MOU..



Visiting Gynaecologists Dr Alan Tong and Dr Araz Boghossian have been amazed at the quality & coordination of Gynae projects since the signing of an MoU.

In a country where a lot of medical aid has been supplied by NGOs (most with religious affiliation) the Solomon Islands has had to accept the good and bad of charities in their country. With a rapidly growing medical workforce, largely due to the increased number of Cuban trained medical graduates, the next decade will probably see a shift in the emphasis from charity driven medical aid, to government organized and funded medical aid.

This is an important step in Solomon Island's strive for self-determination, and non-reliance on charities and overseas aid.

In fact the eventual aim of organizations such as DAISI, should be to support the local government process, so much that in time, DAISI's own existence is no longer required.

"By making itself redundant, DAISI will have done its job" says DAISI Chair Dr Tim Nicholson



Projects

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8 programmes

Solomon Islands



12 trips &
93 volunteers **this year**

Solomon Islands

- 2 laparoscopic gynaecology (Gizo)
- 1 general surgery, plastics & ENT (Gizo)
- 3 laparoscopic surgery (Gizo)
- 2 general surgery (Munda)
- 1 fact finding (Auki)
- 1 fact finding (Taro)
- 2 laparoscopic (Honiara)

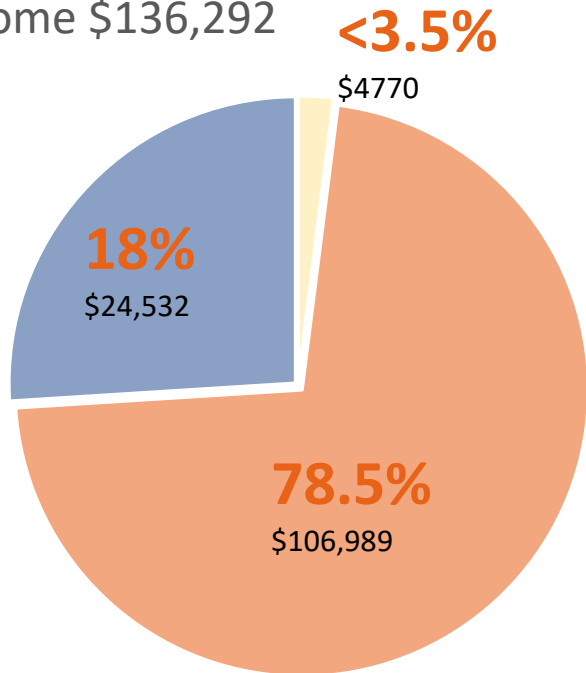


Finance

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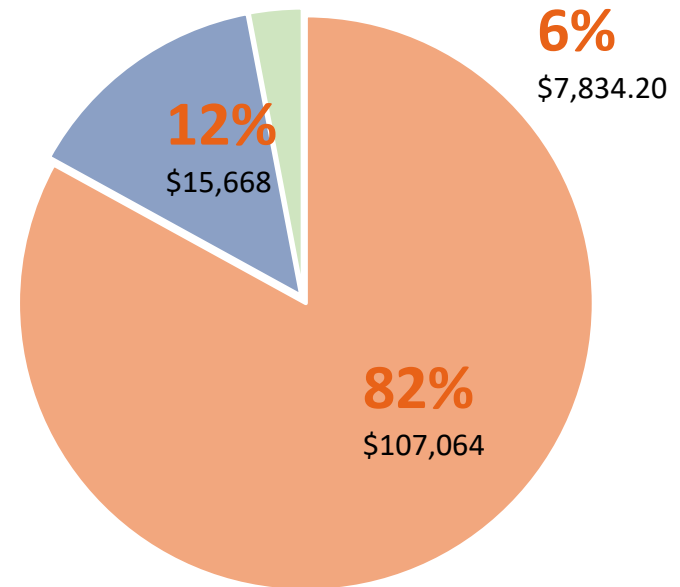
How Funds Were Spent (2016/2017 Financial Year)

Income \$136,292



Interest Donations Fundraising (DAISI Ball)

Money Spent \$130,570



Development Programmes South-Pacific
Fundraising
Administration

Statement of Financial Position (End 2016/2017 Financial Year)

Total Assets	\$5,722.00 ^[1]
Total Liability	\$0.00 ^[2]

1. At end of financial year 30th June 2017 DAISI had no liability
2. At end of financial year 30th June 2017 DAISI had total assets of \$5,722.00



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