

MEDIA RELEASE



Nusa Tenggara Timor Medical Program

Thursday 31st August 2006

The Nusa Tenggara Timor Medical Program has been developed by the Overseas Specialist Surgical Association of Australia (OSSAA) to provide specialist tertiary medical services to underprivileged countries. AusAID, is providing funding through the Royal Australian College of Surgeons in 2006/2007 for increased provision of specialist services to be supported under Australia-Nusa Tenggara Assistance for Regional Autonomy (ANTARA) Program.

A small team, Prue Keith (Orthopaedic Surgeon) and Gaye Hose (Perioperative Nurse) from Northeast Health Wangaratta, an anaesthetist John Campbell from Melbourne, Amelia Hartnett, International Scholarships Officer and an interpreter are leaving on September 1st to spend a week in Soe, West Timor. Soe, is a town in central West Timor close to the East Timor border. Northeast Health Wangaratta Theatre Nurse Unit Manager Ms Hose says “We will be the first medical team to visit Soe to perform surgery such as nonunion fractures and congenital abnormalities in children, such as club feet. We will also be assessing what support is available for future teams that visit the hospital so they can assess and provide what is required to perform more complicated surgery”.

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