

2018 AVVRG Vic Health Education Team Program Report

The date of the 2018 program was set during the 2017 program. As Tet was on February 16th, the program was set for 4-16th March, after Tet. In previous years, we have been before Tet, this an extremely busy time for staff, both in the hospital and in their personal lives. This is a better time for them.

There were just over 40 applications for the 2018 team. The committee choose 40 people to be on the team. Some have had to withdraw because of illness or other commitments, leaving a team of 36 people. There was no more than 5 people in each speciality.

The committee choose not to return to Nguyen Tri Phoung hospital, as the staff in the hospital were not receptive to our team, even following discussions with the medical director about our concerns at several meetings in previous years.

We also had contacted 2 hospitals that we hadn't previously visited, the oncology hospital and Children's city hospital.

All meetings with the 9 hospitals went well, particularly the oncology hospital, they wanted whatever we could offer. They were also keen for team members to work side by side in the clinical areas.

During the planning trip, an email was received regarding the DAP grant. The closing date of applications was 10 days from the receipt of the email. I asked John Barrie to write the submission, as we only had a short time to submit it. We were notified that we were successful in been awarded the grant in December.

Jen and I work for many hours to formulate the program, allocate the lectures and allocation of team members each day. There were some changes that had to be made to the program during the 2 weeks, which is always the case.

Requests for lectures were sent out to team members, and a request that they should be submitted by 1st November. I was still chasing up the last couple after Christmas!

In addition to Pre-trip meetings and emailed information, a formation of a face book page was set up. This gave the opportunity for interstate team members to speak to others re travel plans etc.

HTO hospital kindly met many of the groups of team members at the airport. Transfers for other team members were arranged as requested.



The hotel as usual, were welcoming and friendly. The staff are always helpful, on the weekend, one of the team members left her handbag in the dining room. It was kept safely, until she could retrieve it.

A walking tour was organised for team members on the Sunday morning. Team members were instructed about phone set up in the welcome package. The process of setting up phones seemed to be a bit problematic this time, as several needed more work.

At the chief nurses meeting, committee members were allocated to each of the hospitals to confirm the program and get the pick-up times of the hospital. It then made it easier to post the complete program on the notice board for the team.

The interpreters meeting was in the afternoon, there are again new staff at RMIT coordinating the interpreters. Kyle has been fantastic been the go between for us. At the planning meeting, the staff at RMIT discussed insurance for the interpreters. "it would be a nice thing to do". We investigated this and choose to implement it. It was handed over to the admin assistant Paul. 26 interpreters attended the meeting and were briefed by Kyle and Paul. Ideally, the same interpreters would be allocated to the same teams e.g. oncology, OT, but as this is their first week of semester, all were part time and this wasn't possible.



At the first team meeting, we met some of the interstate team members for the first time, a team photo, an final overview of the program was given, and introductions of team leaders. Then, it was off to the night market for a dinner, a good opportunity for team members to get to know each other.



Usually on the first day of the program, it is a day to visit and just tour the hospitals, but the Oncology hospital choose to have their seminar day. At the planning meeting, they said they would like it on the first day, as it would be a good introduction for both the team and the hospital. Such a great idea! The oncology team was kept very busy at several hospitals.

There were 8 seminars in total

Oncology Hospital-Oncology care (full day)

HTO-BLS and T.T.T. (2 afternoons)

Binh Dan- IV therapy (full day)

Cho Ray- communication in health care (half day-PM)

Hung Vuong-Neonatal and postnatal quality care(Half day-morning)

Tu Du- Care of the diabetic mother and baby, including celebrations for 10 years of collaboration (half day-morning)

Children's No 2-recognising the deteriorating patient (full day)

Children's No1- Day surgery and deteriorating patient (Full day)

There were many other workshops and in-services over the 2-week program, over 120 lectures in total.



Because of the large number of lectures, there was reduced time for working side by side with the hospital staff. The allied health and stomal therapy staff were able to implement this well.

'Going with the flow' is something we ask our team to do, and as usual with the program there were changes, for example the children's city hospital requested the neonatal team for a second visit.



The hospital staff were friendly and eager to learn and exchange information, workshops give them a good forum to clarify information, as the groups are smaller. Their hospitality as usual was great, and they ensured we got to taste lots of delicious Vietnamese food. Even though we took less equipment over, as hospitals are not able to use out of date supplies, there was still lots of bags! Karen did a great job of allocating the bags before we left and made sure they were returned in HCMC, before been taken to the appropriate hospital. Equipment purchased with the DAT grant, was used at BLS workshops in the hospitals as well as at the orphanage workshop. Some of the BLS mannequins were donated to the orphanage. The remainder is stored securely at one of the doctor's house in HCMC, so we can use it in the coming years.

HTO and Tu Du hospitals had dinners and invited all the team members who had visited their hospitals. They are always so generous with their hospitality!

John Barrie was awarded the Ho Chi Minh City award by HTO hospital for his services to the Vietnamese people. He is the eleventh person on the team to be awarded this prestigious award. Jen Benjamin and I also received an award from HTO hospital, the Health Service award. These were presented at the conference on the final day.



On the weekend, it's free time for team members to rest or explore the sights of Vietnam.

But there were a couple of optional activities for team members-

On Saturday, a visit to My Huong's orphanage in Vung Tau. Last year, some of our team did a BLS workshop for the staff, My Huong requested another workshop. John Barrie again did a great job of organising the first aid/BLS workshop, which concluded with the very enthusiastic BLS competition- where everyone wins!



On Sunday, HTO hospital was keen to take us out for some sightseeing- I suggested the traditional medicine museum, which was local. A visit to the museum and then lunch!

Our famous A.V.V.R.G. party was again organised by Phuc at the Palace hotel, in The party was on Wednesday, as we were unable to get the venue on the Thursday. It worked out better, as team members were able to get organised for weekend travel the night after.



The conference was held at Children's No2 new conference hall. During his opening speech, the vice director of the HCMC department of Health, Dr Tang Chi Thuong suggested that the conference was longer-2 days, this may prove difficult for our team as the program is only 2 weeks. As it was close, some team members could walk, while others, who had luggage were able to get there by taxi.

Looking forward- the planning for 2019 has already begun, the dates have been set, 19th February to 1st March. Recruitment flyers have been sent out and there have already been over 20 enquires.



I would like to thank the committee members for their support. In particular, John Vice President, for organising the equipment and putting the DAP grant application together at such short notice. Karen for keeping track of the equipment, before and during the trip. Jen, for coming on the planning trip and working with me to format the program and Althea for organising the accommodation. A true team effort!