

AVVRG

Victorian Health Education Team Trip 2008

AVVRG Victorian Health Education Team visited Ho Chi Minh City in February 2008 for a great 2 week program. The team was the largest ever this year with 41 health professionals, mainly nurses with a doctor, 2 dieticians and 2 administrators. Also included in the team were eight 3rd year nursing students from RMIT University (Australia) as part of RMIT's 120th birthday celebrations.



Victorian Health Education Trip Team – Feb 2008

Each year we see the impact of our visits and from the education we provide in changed practices and the enthusiasm of the Vietnamese staff. We spent 2 weeks working in six hospitals in HCMC delivering Health education in a variety of ways. These may include formal seminars, planned in-service, informal in-service and sometimes just by exchanging ideas. All our lectures are sent to Vietnam before we arrive and have been translated into Vietnamese, and the interpreters are there to help with any questions that arise.

This year we ran a triage workshop at Cho Ray Hospital where the triage system used here was introduced. A trauma seminar was run at the Hospital for Traumatology and Orthopaedics, the first half was theory with the second half practical skill stations with 120 people at the seminar and with only 4 skill stations, it was very busy but an overwhelming success. Other seminars run during the 2 weeks covered wound care, chest tubes and other wound drainage systems, cardiac surgery at the Children's Hospital, a Research seminar at the maternity hospital where local staff presented their research proposals, and a Ventilation work shop at Cho Ray Hospital.



The Triage Seminar



Manuals given to each Hospital

A huge change can be seen in the nurses who attend the seminars or lectures. 7 years ago they would sit there and not say anything, now there are many questions, discussion on topics we present and they don't hold back when we ask a question.



Practical Skill Station



Visiting a Hospital Ward

Last year, we employed a group of commerce students from RMIT Vietnam to join the team and act as our interpreters. This was highly successful as it made communication so much easier and took a great strain off the hospitals trying to find sufficient English speaking staff. The students absorbed themselves in our work and became great

friends, sharing their culture with us. This year they were again incorporated and did an outstanding job. We look forward to a continued relationship with RMIT Vietnam



RMIT Students



RMIT Students and Vietnamese Nurses

The Aussie RMIT students visited the Vietnam RMIT campus. They also visited the Nursing University and met students from their equivalent year level. We were treated to

a fabulous short film of a day in the life of a Vietnamese nursing student. There was a great question exchange at the end.



Australian RMIT Students visiting RMIT Vietnam

It isn't all work while we are in HCMC as we have quite a bit of social interaction with our Vietnamese friends. We attended a function held by the Australian Consulate, to celebrate 35 years of diplomatic relations between Australia and Vietnam. Lots of singing, dancing on stage and a huge buffet meal accompanied by lovely Tasmanian wines.

We hosted our party also, which was, as usual, great fun with lots of singing and dancing.



Our Party - Lots of Sings and Dancing by all



Nursing Conference

The annual Nursing conference was held at the HCM City Health Services on our last day. This has changed from a two day conference which covered a whole variety of nursing issues, to a half day conference where three topics are presented by both Vietnamese Nurses and Australian Nurses. This allows for greater understanding of the differences and similarities of the nursing role in each country

We look forward to our return trip in Feb 2009.

Individuals Can Make a Difference

Please see our recruitment flyer if you feel that you would be suitable for this type of volunteer work at www.avvrg.org