



Patron:
His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC
Governor of South Australia

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

It is high time you received an AVVRG Newsletter from me so here we go!

It is now mid April and Coronavirus has hit the world big time and we needed to suspend all our Team trips to Vietnam to avoid any risk of them catching the virus and/or being stranded in Vietnam with no way out!

Prior to the Coronavirus epidemic, back in November 2019, our Queensland Mental Health Team took 10 volunteers to Baria-Vung Tau. They attended a conference and presented a number of sessions on specified mental health topics which included:

Suicide risk assessment

Coping with mental emergencies in children

Child development process

Perceptions and behaviors of people around patients and relatives of patients

Selfcare of hospital staff when dealing with patients.

Congratulations to Team leader Valerie Tancred and her Queensland Mental Health Team for conducting such a successful trip.

Until December 2019 our Dental teams had provided dental treatments to children at the Vung Tau Orphanage, Vung Tau School for the Blind and the Tu An Orphanage. Our scheduled six Dental Team visits to Baria-Vung Tau in 2020 have been suspended. The schools in Vietnam have all been closed since February and we provided a wonderful service during 2019.

Dr Greg Miller took over the leadership from Dr Colin Twelftree and Greg's Team is looking forward to 2021 when they can continue providing their dental service to the children in the Schools and Orphanages of the Baria-Vung Tau region.

In February 2020 our Victorian Health Education Team had 30 personnel ready to fly into HCMC to conduct their annual education seminars and workshops in five hospitals in HCMC and one in Vung Tau. Team Leader Jackie Wright was also scheduled to meet with two members of the Hoc Mai Foundation. We received notification from the Vietnamese Health Department in HCMC that the main Conference was being cancelled and two of their hospitals were treating patients with COVID -19. This trip was cancelled and will be rescheduled to 2021.

Our New South Wales Education Team is planning to widen its activities by providing much needed community aid. The team has been joined by the former "Australian Vietnam Group", an organization who are delivering community aid and will now do so under the AVVRG banner.

In Vietnam AVVRG has been registered as a NGO for over 20 years and one of only a handful of Australian charities working in Vietnam. Last year the National Committee decided that we should be registered in Australia so in August 2019 AVVRG was registered as a Public Benevolent Charity which entitles us to accept donations which are tax deductible for the donor. To all those who have donated

since August 2019 receipts will be sent out to you by the end of this financial year. We thank you and really appreciate your donations.

Last week I received a telephone call from our Patron His Excellency the Honorable Hieu Van Le AC enquiring on how we all were coping with Covid-19 and if we had any of our members stranded in Vietnam. On your behalf I covered our current AVVRG activities and His Excellency and Mrs. Le look forward to our visit later this year to Adelaide for our AVVRG AGM and we thank him for his patronage.

The founder of AVVRG Paul Murphy attended our AGM in Queensland in October last year and we have been communicating ever since. Paul has sent the National Committee a record of the projects he was instrumental in commencing through the early years of AVVRG and is looking forward to again assisting the organization in its activities. Many thanks Paul.

Finally post COVID-19 we await clearance from both the Vietnamese and Australian Governments for safe travel before we recommence our activities in Vietnam.

Thank you all for your efforts over the past few years and if you have any friends interested in joining this unique organization please direct them to our AVVRG website. For as little as \$40 annual membership they will be given the opportunity through AVVRG to provide Humanitarian Aid to the People of Vietnam.

Kind Regards and stay healthy

Tim

Tim Becker

President

AVVRG Inc