



Submission No 4

Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with Timor-Leste

Name: Mr Norbert Hoegerl

Organisation: MicroMed International



MicroMed International

Independent Operating Microscope Co.
Surgical & Diagnostic

Unit 11/ #1 Lieber Grove,
Carrum Downs,
Victoria 3201, Australia
Ph: (03) 9775 0812
Fax: (03) 9775 0692
(03) 9776 1501

To:
Office of the Clerk Assistant (Committees)
House of Representatives
P.O. Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: norbert@micromedint.com
Website: www.micromedint.com

Subject: The continuation of Australia's support for Timor Leste's gains in Health Development.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself:
My name is Norbert Hoegerl. I am employed at the Melbourne based MicroMed International.

Since July 2001 MicroMed International Pty Ltd has been involved in conjunction with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in the rebuilding of East Timor's Health system in particular within Ophthalmology and ENT. As a Volunteer I provide BioMedical Engineering services on a regular basis to assist Timor Leste's Health service.

In that capacity I have gained extensive experience within my field of expertise throughout Timor Leste.

Many improvements have been made which were unimaginable 12 years ago. I have seen 6 new Hospitals built and equipped some with "State-of-the-art" medical equipment. Outreach clinics have been established and medical care has reached isolated and remote areas.

I travel to most of those areas to install and maintain the supplied Equipment and may I say this can be rather "adventures" and "rough" to say the least. Once we get to our destination, I always make sure to "train" local Timorese technicians to look after the equipment and "sometimes" they do that to the best of their abilities!

As mentioned above, most of the Equipment is expensive and sensitive to environmental conditions such as high temperatures and high humidity and needs to be cared for accordingly.

Unfortunately this is "NOT" happening (yet)!

It is my opinion we will have to continue to give "BioMedical" support for some time to come.

If funding should cease and we would be unable to carry on with our work I would Foresee quite negative implications on Medical services as Specialist Surgeons depend on well maintained Medical Equipment to successfully treat patients. It is also imperative for the Australian Government and the Timorese health system to look after this equipment as it represents a substantial financial investment that would rapidly deteriorate rendering it useless and consequently failing the people of Timor Leste.

I am sure that the Timorese will produce their own BioMed engineers in the foreseeable future.

However until they do, we at MicroMed Int. will be here to help hopefully with the support of the "Australian Government".

Sincerely Yours

Norbert Hoegerl
MicroMed International
06-03-2013

MICROMED INTERNATIONAL



Unit 1/ #1 Lieber Grove, Carrum Downs, Victoria 3201, Australia
Ph: (03) 9775 0812 Mob: 0418 584 347
Fax: (03) 9775 0692 (03) 9776 1501
Email: norbert@micromedint.com Website: www.micromedint.com