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ROMAC | Update

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE- APRIL 2020

Dear Valued Supporters of ROMAC

I write to you as we all find ourselves in the midst of an unexpected time.

I must start my communication by saying that I hope you are all safe and well and coping with this medical crisis. Regardless of how the COVID-19 is affecting our lives, I would like to bring you up to date with the present state of play with ROMAC and our patients.

As you are aware, currently only Australian citizens and residents may enter the country; and New Zealand is similar. As a result, ROMAC is unable, at this stage, to accept any new patients needing surgery or medical procedures.

For your information, there are two patients still in Australia receiving medical attention.

Firstly, there is Vincent from the Solomon Islands who arrived in July 2019 diagnosed with "complete eosophageal T3-T4 level with no fistula between the oesophagus and trachea / bronchus" as well as "immediate respiration pneumonia" requiring treatment. Vincent turned 11 months old on the 3rd April 2020. After

many operations and procedures under the direction of Professor Croaker at Canberra Hospital, Vincent is now taking milk from a bottle and oral foods and his weight has now increased to 7.3kg. He is now crawling and getting into mischief! Vincent and his mother, Cosinta, are being cared for at the home of Sandra and Brian Goldstraw, with assistance from her ROMAC team. Hopefully Vincent and Cosinta will be able to return home in July this year.

Secondly, there is Germaine. Also from the Solomon Islands, Germaine arrived at the Westmead Children's Hospital in early March to be diagnosed with rheumatic aortic and mitral valve disease. Her operation was successful and she was discharged from hospital at the end of the month. She is currently staying with her mother and friends in Wollongong, NSW.

Here in Australia and New Zealand, so much is still uncertain. But one thing we at ROMAC know, is that in the coming weeks and months ROMAC will be needed by sick children in the Islands of Oceania like never before.

Please consider supporting ROMAC so that we can continue our much needed work with children from our neighbouring countries in Oceania.

Please donate now to help.

Keep safe and keep well.

Harold Sharp

Chairman

[View a complete background to our situation in the islands](#)



Vincent

11-month old Vincent is recovering slowly from his surgeries and is now able to take milk from a bottle and food orally. He is gaining weight and is now over 7 kg.

He is crawling and is developing into a typical mischievous youngster, and he loves his Easter Bunny suit!

It is hoped that Vincent will be well enough to return home to the Solomon Islands in July this year.

Germaine

Germaine is a 16 year old from the Solomon Islands who was successfully treated for a heart condition in Sydney's Westmead hospital in March.

She is currently living in Wollongong with her mother, Goretti (pictured with Germaine) who is completing her nursing degree at Wollongong University.

ROMAC

Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children

ROMAC is a project of Rotary Clubs in Australia and New Zealand

ROMAC provides medical treatment for children from developing countries in the form of lifesaving and dignity restoring surgery not accessible to them in their home country.

Read more about ROMAC at:

www.romac.org.au or www.romac.org.nz

With more and more of you becoming social media savvy during our current lockdown, it would be great if you would spread the word about ROMAC to your family and friends. Share our Facebook pages, comment and like our posts and even send this email to your neighbours. Every bit helps!

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