

THE ORDER OF MALTA'S ONGOING RESPONSE TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS



The number of refugees and displaced persons worldwide has reached levels not recorded since the end of World War II.

Czech Republic - The Order is providing financial help for refugees. Preparing and creating a network with other organisations in preparation for the influx of refugees.

France - The French Association runs a project to help the integration of refugees; most are from Iraq and Syria.

Germany - Malteser Werke runs over 20 refugee facilities with over 6,200 beds. Caring for 50,000 refugees per day, providing: food, clothing and language lessons.

The Aegean Sea - The Italian Relief Corps patrol the sea separating Greece from Turkey, a route for thousands of Syrians.

The Mediterranean - Since 2008, the Italian Relief Corps has patrolled the Mediterranean Sea. Rescuing survivors from the sea has become a daily duty for the Order's doctors.

Iraq - Malteser International has been working in Iraq for over a decade running health centres. They also offer healthcare for displaced people and other support: providing food; education; livelihoods; shelter; water and sanitation.

Lebanon - Over one million refugees are registered in Lebanon. The Order operates medical centres close to the most concentrated refugee areas, providing constant medical support and care. The Lebanese Association has just launched a new Mobile Medical Unit in the northern border region of Wadi Khaled.

Mali - Armed conflict has forced over 475,000 people to flee Mali. The French Association supplies medicines, hygiene products, food and clothing to over 300,000 IPDs.

Burkina Faso - The Order manages eight ambulance centres in Burkina Faso. The centres respond to 2,300 calls each year, many from refugee camps near the Malian Border.

Myanmar - The Order provides emergency medical relief at a camp containing some of the 120,000 Rohingyas, who have fled from religious persecution.

South Sudan - Malteser International has aided over 12,000 refugees, building pumps for clean drinking water, and distributing food packages and household items to 7,500 IDPs in Maridi county.

Syria - For the past 5 years, Syrians have been migrating to avoid conflict. Malteser International, in cooperation with local partners, provides medical teams, start-up kits and winter relief measures to 24,000 IDP families.

Turkey - Malteser International runs a 47-bed mobile clinic at Kilis, providing medical and psychosocial support to ill and injured refugees. A community centre offers language classes to help communication between refugees and their hosts.

Uganda - Malteser International has helped to improve the water supply for 12,000 residents at the Rhino refugee camps. They have provided beds for a health centre and medicines for refugees.



RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE IN ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES IN MEDICINE

Every year, Members of the Order in WA sponsor prizes at the University of Notre Dame's Freemantle School of Medicine. The Awards recognise the School's highest achieving students

The 2015 Academic Year Prize Giving Ceremony was held on Wednesday 9th March and Member of the Order, Hon. Kevin Hammond, presented The Order of Malta Prize for Philosophical Studies in Medicine and The Order of Malta Prize for Ethical Studies in Medicine.

Congratulations to Charlotte Woollard, who received the award for Philosophical Studies and Mia Zic, who received the award for Ethical Studies.

DEFENCE OF THE FAITH LECTURE SERIES

The Order of Malta Defence of the Faith lecture series is intended to equip ordinary Catholics with the information and arguments to address misconceptions about our Faith.

The most recent lectures in the series were presented by Professor John Haldane who was appointed to a Visiting Professorship at the University of Notre Dame Australia. He holds professorships at Universities in the UK and USA, codirects the Centre for Ethics, Philosophy and Public Affairs (University of St Andrews); Research Fellow of the Center for Ethics and Culture, (University of Notre Dame, USA), and Chair of the Royal Institute of Philosophy, London.

Prof. Haldane's first lecture in March, discussed the topic of 'Sex and Society' which reviewed the cultural preoccupation with sex and considered its implications for society.



In May, Prof Haldane lectured on 'The Challenge of Barbarianism and How to Deal with it'.

The lectures were hosted by the Institute of Ethics and Society at the University of Notre Dame Australia and supported by the Order of Malta, NSW Branch as part of their Defence of the Faith Lecture Series.

Missed the lectures? Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au to listen to the lecture recordings online



We have been serving the sick and the poor for over 900 years.

Help us continue our work by leaving a bequest to the Order of Malta.

By leaving us a legacy, no matter what size, you allow us to plan for the future. With guaranteed funds in place, we can look to expand and develop our humanitarian activities with confidence.

If you would like to receive a copy of our bequest brochure, please complete and return the form on page 5.



ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

The Australian Association of the Order of Malta
33 - 37 West Street, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010
Telephone: +61 2 9331 8477 | info@smom.org.au
www.orderofmalta.org.au

The Order of Malta is a Public Benevolent institution and is endorsed by the Australian Tax Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient. ABN 37 142 209 121. Licence: SA - CCP1722, WA - 21310.



ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

JULY 2016 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE - PROJECT UPDATES / LECTURE SERIES / INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Gorman House is part of St. Vincent's Hospital Alcohol and Drug Service

Gorman House is a detoxification unit which is shelter to some of Sydney's most marginalized and problematic population suffering from severe alcohol and drug problems. Each year, 1,500 admissions are made to Gorman House and 90% of the patients have multiple addictions, mental health issues and/or physical health issues. A large number who seek refuge in Gorman House are homeless.

In 2006 the NSW Branch of the Order of Malta undertook to provide the funds necessary to keep Gorman House operating 24 hours a day 7 days a week following a shortfall in funding that would have effectively

resulted in Gorman House having to close.

It was at this time that the Gorman House partnership between the NSW Branch of the Order of Malta and St Vincent's Hospital was established and since then the NSW Branch of the Order of Malta has raised and provided in excess of \$1.6 million to enable Gorman House to continue to effectively provide its essential facilities and services. In addition, the Branch members and volunteers undertake barbeques at Gorman House three times a week, to provide camaraderie and mentor support to the residents.

The overwhelming and growing need for the services of Gorman House have been recognised by the Government, who have agreed to provide ongoing funding to St Vincent's to grow the service to

become a seven day medical detoxification unit.

The model of care also involves an outreach program - "Gorman House Reaching Out". This will enable doctors and psychologists from St Vincent's Outreach Service to visit patients in the community who want to cease using drugs or alcohol but cannot, or do not, want to enter inpatient rehabilitation. Funding for this vital service is not possible within the Hospital budget and The Order of Malta NSW Branch has committed to raise an additional \$150,000 to fund this initiative.

A copy of the most recent Gorman House Newsletter is available to download from www.orderofmalta.org.au

If you would like to support Gorman House Reaching Out and the Community Care Van, you can do so by making a donation on page 5.



TIMOR PLAZA ORDER OF MALTA MEDICAL CLINIC

The Order of Malta is in the process of establishing a health care facility in Dili to provide basic primary out of hospital care and education to the people of Timor-Leste. The Clinic will also provide up-skilling and mentoring for locally-trained health workers. The clinic, to be known as The Order of Malta Jape Alem Memorial Clinic, is intended to be the forerunner to future clinics throughout the country and plans to open its doors at the end of the year. The facility will operate within the boundaries of teachings and charism of the Roman Catholic Faith and SMOM.

HOW THE CLINIC WILL OPERATE

We are providing a best-practice outpatient primary health care facility in Dili, following the guidelines established by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian Nursing Federation Competency Standards for general practice.

* BUILD & DESIGN

The clinic is modelled after a first class "general practice" in an Australian city, designed by a Sydney based architectural firm dealing exclusively with health care facilities. Hopefully it will set the standard for future health services in this impoverished country.

* SERVICES & AREAS OF FOCUS

The emphasis will be on the provision of services to women and children by providing antenatal and postnatal care to expectant mothers but will not be providing facilities for the delivery of babies. By promoting and demonstrating the simple habits of cleanliness, personal hygiene and simple but nutritious food, it is envisaged that this would result in a fall in the incidence of chronic diseases such as rheumatic fever and ear, nose and throat and eye infections which place a tremendous burden on the health care budget of developing nations. The importance of childhood vaccinations to prevent infectious diseases will be promoted.

* STAFFING

The Clinic will be staffed by a team comprised of both Timorese and overseas healthcare professionals. Medical staff would include at least one doctor trained in a recognised international tertiary institution. Visiting doctors and other paramedical staff will supplement the local staffing and will assist in the up-skilling of local health care workers. These individuals may have specialist or particular interests to complement the work of the Clinic. There will also be a fully equipped ambulance attached to the Clinic to transport patients to and from the Clinic and/or to the National Hospital.

* MANAGEMENT

The Order will oversee the general running of the Clinic in terms of the finances and management functions and will ensure that the charism of the Order is always present.

WHAT WE HAVE:

- **Brand new specially designed premises,**
- **Fit-out partly funded by the Global Fund for the Forgotten People,**
- **Excellent and experienced Clinic Manager and medical staff**
- **Experienced Nursing staff provided by the local religious congregations**
- **Two local Timorese doctors provided by the Timor-Leste Ministry of Health**
- **Links with the University of Notre Dame Australia**

WHAT WE NEED:

- **Funding to complete the fit out of the premises**
- **Donations of, or funding for, specialised medical equipment**
- **Ongoing operational funding to cover staffing costs, consumables and pharmaceuticals**
- **Establish links with other medical organisations to provide volunteer staff at the facility**

If you would like to make a donation towards this project you can do so on page 5.



SIMPLE HYGIENE PACKS HELPING PREVENT HEALTH PROBLEMS AMONGST THE HOMELESS

With homeless organisations reporting the highest number of rough sleepers in the last six years, the Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta are stepping up their efforts to provide healthcare and protection to those sleeping on the streets.

Last year, the NSW Branch started its Community Care Van initiative. The van, staffed by volunteer drivers and a nurse from St Vincent's Hospital, was initially intended to provide a mobile health service that also distributed the Order's 'Coats for the Homeless' in winter and sun protection and water in summer. However the volunteers quickly recognised other basic needs of those living on the streets were not being met.

"Poor health amongst the homeless is common and much of it is preventable" explained NSW Branch Chairman David Hall. "We recognised that by providing the homeless with a simple hygiene pack containing toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and sanitary items for women, we could make a big impact on not only their daily life but longer term physical health".

On average, 50 hygiene packs are distributed on each Van outing. The basic 'men's packs' costs \$5 each, but the women's pack costs \$10 each, as sanitary items are extremely expensive.

"For women on the street, who are usually in desperate and difficult circumstances, the provision of sanitary items not only promotes their health and wellbeing but self-worth and dignity," comments Erin Longbottom, Nurse Unit Manager & Order of Malta Outreach Nurse, St Vincents Homeless Health Service. "It is something many of us take for granted and should not have to be a choice for anyone".

\$50 could buy 10 basic hygiene packs containing a toothbrush, toothpaste and soap

\$100 could buy 10 female hygiene packs which also contains sanitary items

If you would like to make a donation to purchase hygiene packs you can do so on page 5.

COATS FOR THE HOMELESS 2016 DISTRIBUTION AND FUNDRAISING



The 2016 Coats for the Homeless project is underway with Members and partner organisations distributing Coats in across Australia.

In total 6,000 of our specially designed winter Coats will be distributed to the homeless this winter. This compares with 3,000 coats distributed last year.



QLD Branch Fundraiser: Archbishop's Dinner 2016
Official Photo



CFTH Breakfast in QLD: Fr Morgan Batt and friends



Yr 3 Students at St. Ita's School in Brisbane Raise Money for Coats for Homeless

Visit orderofmalta.org.au to view the picture galleries from these Fundraisers.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this project.

15 BOXES OF MEDICINES DELIVERED TO CLINIC IN MALIANA

In March, the Order's Ambassador to Timor-Leste delivered 15 boxes of medicines to a medical clinic in Maliana, Timor-Leste.

The cost of the medicines was funded by a group of members of the Order of Malta in Australia as part of an ongoing project to assist medical clinics that provide primary medical care for significant numbers of Timorese in underprivileged urban and isolated rural areas.



MEMBERS SUPPORT PALLIATIVE CARE AT ST JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

Members of the Order's NSW Branch have again provided support to the Palliative Care Unit at St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn. The hospital provides services and support to sick and aged residents in the local and wider community of Auburn and Western Sydney.

The NSW Branch has committed to providing support to the palliative care unit which supports not only patients but their carers and families. The Order's financial

contributions have purchased equipment and improved facilities at the unit, which would not be possible within their normal health budget. This has included portable morphine pumps for patient pain relief, refurbishment of the family and quiet room and a prognostic tool to assess patients at the unit, which has avoided the transfer of patients to Auburn District Hospital for assessment.

On Saturday 19 March, the NSW Branch presented a cheque for \$25,000 to the Hospital to purchase further equipment requested by the doctors to enable them to provide patients with the best possible care during this vulnerable time.

A gallery of images from the presentation can be viewed at www.orderofmalta.org.au

I WANT TO HELP

You can make a donation by completing this form and returning it in the reply paid envelope provided.

☐ I am happy for the Order to allocate my donation to where the need is greatest; **or**

Please accept a gift towards the:

- ☐ Gorman House Reaching Out and the Community Care Van
- ☐ Hygiene Packs for the Homeless
- ☐ Coats for the Homeless
- ☐ Timor Leste Medical Clinic
- ☐ Medicines for Timor Clinics

REMEMBER, GIFTS OF \$2 AND OVER ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

- ☐ Send me information about leaving the Order a bequest
- ☐ Please remove me from your mailing list.

Name

Address

State Postcode Telephone

Please find enclosed a Cheque/ Money Order

(payable to 'The Order of Malta') for \$ or;

Please debit my credit card the amount of \$

Frequency ☐ Once only ☐ Monthly Card Type ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date Cardholder name

Signature