

HOPE!



The Newsletter of Operation Restore Hope Australia
website: <http://www.operationrestorehope.org>

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Highest percentage of infant patients to date



*Babies, babies, babies!
Little patients before lip and palate surgery.*



In our most recent mission 64% of our patients were one year of age and under, 69% 5 years and under and 90% 10 years and under.

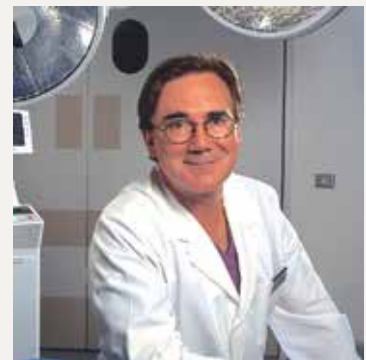
Why is this important? Having a cleft lip and/or cleft palate or both affects not only the infant's appearance, but oxygen uptake, nutritional uptake and development of the muscles used for speech.

It is ideal to close the lip in the first year of life and the palate in the second year. By holding screenings throughout the year we have been able to achieve three very important things that are not achieved by fly in and fly out missions:

“ **It is ideal to close the lip in the first year of life** ”

- **We can identify** children in our communities at a young age to give them the maximum benefit from surgery and opportunities in life
- **We can ensure** that children return for follow up and get any further surgery required such as their palate.
- **We can review** the quality of our results and take responsibility for any other medical or nutritional needs children in our program may have.

A Letter from Dr Hodgkinson



News from ORH founder Dr Darryl Hodgkinson:

Operation Restore Hope Australia has reached a landmark 25 years of commitment to the repair of the deformed faces of underprivileged children in the Philippines.

Having worked for 25 years in areas of need in Cebu and Manila, over 3000 children have had surgery by this volunteer team of surgeons, nurses, anaesthetists and administrators.

A big thanks to our Filipino counterparts, surgeons Jo Jo, Sandy and Gerald, theatre nurses Perry and his team and the ward nurses, for their enthusiasm, skills and patience.

I was humbled to learn many of the Filipino nurses who volunteered their skills free of charge to be part of Operation Restore Hope Australia Team.

The assistance of our NGO partner, Pahinungod from the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), is critical to the smooth

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Filipino surgeons, nurses and partners prove invaluable in our missions!



Drs Gerald Abesamis, Joseph Acosta & Sandee Tan.

We have been very fortunate to have the support of our talented and dedicated Filipino counterparts in our missions.

On hand throughout the mission this time were Filipino plastic surgeons **Brig. Gen. Joseph Acosta**, retired surgeon general for the Armed Forces of the Philippines who is involved in many charity surgical missions, **Dr Sandee Tan** and **Dr Gerald Abesamis**.

Dr Sandee Tan also leads up the review and pre-screening of Operation Restore Hope's mission

patients at least three times a year in between missions.

This interim screening and connection with local surgeons means

“ **support of our talented and dedicated Filipino counterparts** ”

that we also have referral sources to other allied medical practitioners so that we can offer more comprehensive and ongoing care to our patients.

Without this commitment, we would not be able to have the long-term follow-up and quality of not only aesthetic but functional results by incorporating general health, dentistry, speech pathology and other services as required.

Philippine General Hospital lends its support

In addition to the Filipino plastic surgeons we are also very fortunate to have the support of **Ugnayan ng Pahinungod** led by Plastic Surgeon **Dr Eric Talens** which is the charity outreach arm of Philippine General Hospital, the largest teaching hospital in the Philippines. This connection was made through our valued partner the **Philippine-Australian Medical Association (PAMA)**.



Chief Nurse Sue Slater with our local volunteer scrub nurses in theatres

Thank You Jaycar Electronics!



Thanks, Jaycar Electronics for 20 years of support as our principal sponsor!

Mrs Kerry Johnston (pictured), wife of founder and owner of Jaycar Mr Gary Johnston, travelled to the Philippines to assist in the mission in conjunction with volunteer **Louise Miller**.

They carried out qualitative research with families to delineate what life challenges they and their cleft children face and what are the road blocks to treatment and normal socialisation for them now and in the future.

Quality of life and laughter vital for little patients facing big challenges



Patient screening for the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC)

Our work extends to financing the most difficult of cases not possible to be carried out by surgical missions such as ours.

Such cases including encephalocele where the brain grows out of the skull and the face and also major facial clefts, facial tumours and rare diseases such as giant haemangioma and even Siamese twins.

The Mijares Gurango Craniofacial Foundation and Dr Taps

Gurango and Kathy Nuñez perform operations throughout the whole year and these are supported by ORHA. We donate substantial funds each year so they can continue their outstanding work which is primarily supported by a private foundation.

We review these cases and are in continuing consultation with the Craniofacial Team at PCMC. We also loan expensive equipment to assist them in the plastic surgical operations.

Before and after craniofacial surgery for nasofrontal encephalocele. (protusion of the brain through the skull).



Letter from Dr Hodgkinson

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attainment of licensure and giving us direction for future aid to institutions providing similar surgical care.

Finally, the impressive work of the Craniofacial Unit at the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) headed by Dr Taps Gurango should be acknowledged.

Complex craniofacial deformities.

ORHA supports them financially and by lending valuable equipment to Dr Gurango's work on the most complex of craniofacial deformities (as pictured on the left).

Our team is working tirelessly throughout the year to be able to serve the most needy of society's poor children born with facial deformities who without repair would have to face a certain bleak future.

As ever a big thank you to our Volunteers!



Part of the team in the theatres

We had the most amazing team of volunteers this past mission travel from Australia and the UK.

Surgeons: Darryl Hodgkinson and Anton Fries,

Anaesthetists: Alastair D'Vaz, Karthik Nagarajan and Bill Bestic,

Nurses: Sue Slater, Angie Bugayong, Rebecca Broom, Kelly Hughes, Renee Jarvie, Rosa Junio

Administrators: Graeme MacKinnon, Grant Brown, Ben Mead, Barry Roberts, Kerry Johnston, Louise Miller, Katherine Hodgkinson;

Photographer: Andrea Francolini.

All worked tirelessly pro bono.

Every single person's efforts were required to make these little miracles both at the mission in the communities and at PCMC possible. Thank you!



Kerry and Rosa interview families.



Operation Restore Hope at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Manila for ANZAC Day Dawn Service



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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Operation-Restore-Hope/1480516958902839>

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The cost to Operation Restore Hope Australia to repair a facial cleft is approximately \$500 AUD per operation. The more donations we receive, the more children we can help.

No funds received are spent on administrative, accounting, advertising or infrastructure costs. All membership fees and donations are spent directly on surgeries performed.

You can also become a Life Member of Operation Restore Hope Australia or just join for a year. Your fee or donation will help fund the cost of a child's surgery.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Donations over \$2.00 are fully tax deductible and are payable to "Operation Restore Hope Philippines Relief Fund"

I wish to make a donation of \$ _____

Memberships are not tax deductible and are payable to 'Operation Restore Hope Australia'

Enclosed is my \$100 Lifetime Membership fee

Enclosed is my \$20 Annual Membership fee

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

Method of Payment:

Cheque enclosed MasterCard Visa

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Signature _____ Expiry Date _____