

## Anaesthetics Intern Supervisor

### Solomon Islands

*This assignment has been negotiated in good faith with the Partner Organisation, and the information contained was correct at the time of acceptance of the request. However, while we take responsibility for matters under our direct control, all assignments and arrangements are subject to change. This assignment may be amended or withdrawn to reflect changes in circumstances.*

#### ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

<b>Assignment title</b>	Anaesthetics Intern Supervisor		
<b>Partner Organisation</b>	Ministry of Health and Medical Services/National Referral Hospital		
<b>Location</b>	Honiara, Solomon Islands		
<b>Website of Partner Organisation</b>	<a href="https://solomons.gov.sb/ministry-of-health-medical-services/">https://solomons.gov.sb/ministry-of-health-medical-services/</a>		
<b>Duration of assignment</b>	4-6 months	<b>Start date</b>	25/07/2022 (or by negotiation)
<b>Type of assignment</b>	In-person	<b>Australian Organisation</b>	Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA)
<b>Time commitment</b>	0 (Remote volunteers only)		

#### PARTNER ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

The Solomon Islands Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) is responsible for the management and delivery of the health and medical services for the population of Solomon Islands.

MHMS consists of the following units: Health Improvement, Health Care, Health Policy and Planning, and Administration and Management; hospital services fall under Health Care.

Of the nine provinces in Solomon Islands, eight have a public hospital. There are also four private hospitals in the provinces, owned and operated through various church organisations. Provincial health services include a network of health centres, aid posts and village health workers, with location broadly determined by the size and distribution of the population and the need to provide access to care. The quality of service provision may be impaired by poor availability of pharmaceuticals and other resources in outlying facilities, including a doctor/healthcare worker-to-population ratio that is among the lowest in the Pacific.

Communicable diseases like malaria, other parasitic diseases and tuberculosis (TB) remain prevalent, although malaria incidence is gradually declining. Non-communicable diseases (NCD) like diabetes and hypertension and the prevalence of NCD risk factors are rising rapidly. Most women now give birth with the assistance of a skilled attendant, but one in 10 children is malnourished, infant and under-five mortality are declining only slowly, and the country is unlikely to meet its UNICEF Millennium Development Goal targets for child survival. There have been large outbreaks of measles and dengue fever in recent years.

The National Referral Hospital (NRH) is the main hospital in Solomon Islands. Its principal activities are:

- Provision of secondary and tertiary clinical care for people living in Solomon Islands
- Provision of clinical training attachment for medical interns, residents and nurses
- Provision of specialist clinical services and support to the provinces

- Ensuring patient care is of high quality
- Evaluating and facilitating overseas referral to St Vincent Hospital, Sydney, for patients needing more highly specialised treatment (according to MHMS off-shore referral guidelines and eligibility criteria).

Solomon Islands is one of a number of Pacific Island countries that have sent a significant number of students to train in medicine at universities around the world. The majority of these foreign trained medical graduates (FTMG) have attended universities in Cuba, with others studying in Fiji , PNG, Taiwan and the People’s Republic of China. As a result of the increased numbers of FTMGs, large annual cohorts of new medical officers (up to 25 per year) have been returning to Solomon Islands since 2015. Due to overlaps between cohorts, there can be 50 or more junior doctors undertaking pre-registration training in the National Referral Hospital at any one time. The large numbers of returning graduates have placed substantial pressure on an already stretched Solomon Islands health system. There is currently very limited capacity for senior medical staff within Solomon Islands hospitals to provide adequate supervision while also attending to the clinical case load. Without adequate supervision, medical graduates may not develop the necessary skills and knowledge to perform effectively as doctors, which would represent a major missed opportunity for the sector to address medical shortages throughout the health system. There are also concerns about how well the clinical knowledge and skills of the FTMGs trained in Cuba align with the practicalities of working in the Solomon Islands health system.

To help address the increased complexity and demand for pre-registration training, Solomon Islands has developed a two-stage internship comprising: 1) a special pre-internship Bridging Program for FTMGs trained outside the Pacific and/or in a language other than English; and 2) a revised and updated two-year Solomon Islands Internship Training Program (SIITP), which all new medical graduates must complete in order to gain registration as a medical practitioner. The two programs operate under the oversight of the MHMS Medical Training Committee.

An Emergency Department rotation is included in the SIITP, and all Bridging Program trainees participate in lectures and short course relevant to emergency medicine.

## Australian Volunteers Program

### ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

#### Assignment overview

This role is part of the Solomon Islands Medical Partnership for Learning, Education and Research (SIMPLER) – a project funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australian High Commission in Honiara.

The position includes responsibilities within the Emergency Department, as well as the hospital-wide Bridging Program.

The MHMS has acknowledged concerns about its capacity to provide adequate supervision for FTMGs as they return to Solomon Islands and has requested DFAT assistance to provide supplementary supervisory capacity until there are enough local supervisors to manage the programs. SIMPLER supports the MHMS to deliver the Bridging Program (for FTMGs) and the SIITP (including medical graduates from Fiji).

Australian registrar intern supervisors are recruited through strategic Australian organisation (AOs) partnerships including the ANZCA.

The Anaesthetic Intern Supervisor role is focused on clinical supervision, particularly of interns rotating through the Anaesthetic Department. The volunteer will work alongside local registrars in the department to support junior doctors, contribute to departmental education and participate in audit and research activities. This role also includes responsibilities to deliver teaching sessions to participants in the Bridging Program.

This role suits a senior registrar or more advanced anaesthetist who is interested in building the clinical skills of junior doctors through on-the-job supervision and mentoring, and is interested in working cross culturally as well as being able to work with minimal resources. This role will require registration with the Solomon Islands Medical and Dental Board.

The Department of Anaesthetics has two consultants and several training registrars. The NRH has no critical care facilities.

#### Assignment objectives

- Teach and mentor Bridging Program trainees, Interns and also local registrars; specifically, in their Anaesthetics rotation.
- Assist in the development of a training program for Registrars in preparation for their post-graduate studies through University of PNG
- Develop and deliver a structured in-service program for all Anaesthetics medical staff in order to strengthen education in line with

service needs

- Assist with developing the Anaesthetic Component of the Rural Medicine Diploma program currently being developed by the PG committee.

- Whilst education and supervision of junior doctors is a priority, involvement in clinical services under supervision of Anaesthetics Head of Department and specialists is encouraged.

- Develop and deliver a structured in-service program for all Anaesthetics medical staff in order to strengthen education in line with service needs.

To include all people directly affected by the volunteer assignment in the Partner Organisation and community, using strategies that promote: gender equality; inclusion of youth; inclusion of people with a disability; child protection and safeguarding; inclusion of marginalised groups.

### Duties and responsibilities of the volunteer

In consultation with their line manager and relevant stakeholders, Australian volunteers complete a work plan in the first three (3) months of their assignment. The duties below are an indication of the type of work that may be involved in meeting the assignment objectives:

- Supervise medical interns during their anaesthetics rotations

- Plan training programmes that will help trainee interns to be prepared for proper internship

- Assist medical registrars to prepare for post-graduate training in years to come

- Develop and/or maintain partnerships with local, regional and international organisations, local and national government, professional and peer networks.

- Support the development of systems and processes as request by the Head of Department

- Assist with the delivery of others elements of the Bridging Program, including lectures and short courses

- Monitoring and evaluation of the uptake of systems and processes implemented through previous volunteer and departmental collaboration.

## Australian Volunteers Program

### Selection criteria

- MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery)

- Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) or equivalent, or a senior registrar enrolled in the ANZCA training program

- Experience in teaching anaesthetic clinical skills

- Have a strong interest and experience in teaching, supervising, supporting and mentoring undergraduates/post-graduate paediatric doctors and nurses

### Desirable skills, language and experience

- Commitment to team work, coaching and mentoring others

- Awareness of and sensitivity to cross-cultural settings

- A preparedness to work with limited resources within a challenging environment

<b>Line Manager</b>	Dr Kaeni Agiomea, Head, Department of Anaesthetics, National Referral Hospital
<b>Staff Supervision</b>	Yes
<b>Working relationships</b>	<i>Registrars, interns, Bridging Program trainees, Ministry of Health and Medical Services and National Referral Hospital staff, SIMPLER International Projects Coordinator</i>
<b>Hours and days of work</b>	Monday to Friday, 8.30-.4.30pm
<b>Leave</b>	All volunteers are entitled to 20 days leave per 12 months, unless advised otherwise. The same

	conditions and terms as local colleagues apply, including national holidays.
<b>Professional indemnity insurance</b>	<b>Yes - This assignment is deemed to require professional indemnity insurance</b>
(Required for all volunteers who are acting as a medical, allied health or legal professional whilst on assignment.)	The volunteer should consult the partner organisation about the need for professional indemnity insurance for the role prior to departure. Where required and/or considered essential to hold this insurance, please discuss this with the Volunteer Services Manager in Melbourne prior to departure.

## LIVING AS A VOLUNTEER

The Australian Volunteers Program supports volunteers from preparing to go on assignment through to returning home. For a full breakdown of support provided, please visit: <https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/lifestyle-and-support/>

<b>Living allowance</b>	AUD \$1828.00 per month
	The allowance levels are based on the cost of living in the host country location and are listed in \$AUD. Allowances will be reviewed periodically and may increase or decrease.
<b>Accommodation allowance</b>	AUD \$2500.00 per month
<b>Language support</b>	Language support is provided during the in-country orientation period. Most often, additional resources for further development later in the assignment will be available if required.
<b>Country profile</b>	Learn more about the host country location by reading the country profile. We encourage candidates to research the specific location of this assignment as it will be discussed and addressed with a recruitment officer during the interview process.
	<a href="https://www.australianvolunteers.com/countries/solomons">https://www.australianvolunteers.com/countries/solomons</a>

## Australian Volunteers Program

<b>Political or faith-based activities</b>	The Australian Volunteers Program supports partner organisations to achieve their development objectives. It does not engage in or support any evangelical activities and is not linked to any political party. We partner with local faith-based organisations on the basis that the volunteer placement does not engage in evangelising; and participation in activities run by the volunteer is not conditional on conversion or adherence to a particular religious denomination. We also partner with advocacy organisations on the basis that volunteer activities are not in support of a political party or candidate.
--	--

## VOLUNTEERING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Due to the pandemic, there is an increased level of risk for overseas deployments, including but not limited to:

- Stresses on and decreased capability and capacity of local healthcare systems;
- Likely delays in arranging medical evacuations in the event of serious illness or injury;
- Limitations on commercial travel, which will affect annual leave, with potential for delays in getting back home after assignment, limited access to non-urgent medical care, and impact on personal and family circumstances;
- Medical relocations back to Australia are likely to result in end of assignment, due to the logistical challenges associated with re-deploying and the tightening of the medical screening processes.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has placed a temporary pause on partners or children accompanying volunteers as Approved Accompanying Dependents.

The program requires all participants to be vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to deployment, unless contraindicated for medical reasons.

Please visit Frequently Asked Questions In-country volunteering for more information:

<https://www.australianvolunteers.com/faqs/frequently-asked-questions-in-country-volunteering/#category78>

## HOW TO APPLY

All applications must be submitted online through the Australian Volunteers Program website. If you have not already done so, you will

need to register on our website prior to applying. For more information about how to apply, please visit:

<https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/how-it-works>

We actively support and encourage people of all backgrounds and abilities to volunteer internationally, and aim to make the program as accessible and inclusive as possible. The program has a dedicated Indigenous Programs Coordinator to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander volunteers, who can be contacted at [indigenouspathways@australianvolunteers.com](mailto:indigenouspathways@australianvolunteers.com). Access and inclusion plans are available for volunteers with disabilities, to ensure their assignments and living and working arrangements are made more accessible.

#### Personal circumstances

Due to security, cultural, legal or visa restrictions associated with this location, we ask that applicants disclose:

- If they have a criminal conviction where a criminal conviction may be relevant to the inherent requirements of the assignment.

(Delete any that do not apply)

