



# MEDICAL STUDENTS' AID PROJECT

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ANNUAL REPORT 2017





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# Message from the Chairs

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*MSAP CO-CHAIRS CARRIE LEE & ISAAC CHAN*

The belief that medical students can make a tangible difference to global health is at the core of the Medical Students' Aid Project (MSAP). Our projects, whilst small, have an impact on the communities we work with. Often, we are compelled to make a difference through a personal experience, such as a first-hand encounter with poverty and inequality. This is the story behind our projects addressing malnutrition amongst primary school students in India (Food for Thought), providing medical equipment (The Elective Aid Program), and improving basic sanitation facilities (Gandhi Girls Sanitation Project).

Over the past four years, we have witnessed a development in the way MSAP runs its projects. We have begun to ask: how can we make a difference in an ethical, effective and sustainable way? One example has been the progression of the Elective Aid Program, developed from the original flagship medical equipment project after which MSAP was named. Since being evaluated and re-designed in 2015, the Elective Aid Program now supports medical students on electives in hospitals in developing countries to purchase medical equipment for these facilities. This has eliminated shipping costs so that we can use the maximum possible funds for the purchase of requested equipment. We also encourage purchase of equipment in-country in order to support local businesses. We believe this is a more direct and pragmatic way to support these resource-limited facilities.

Healthcare is intricately connected to the social determinants of health, such as poverty, sanitation and education. The Food For Thought project, which provides nutrition for children at a rural primary school in India, has expanded significantly since launching in 2016. It also has a strong educational focus, with twice-yearly educational videos produced by the MSAP Projects Subcommittee. Food For Thought has had significant impact on the Gujarat community, attracting the attention of the local mayor who constructed new classrooms for the school, and initiating eye checks by a local charitable eye hospital. This is an incredible example of the flow-on effects of a grassroots project into the wider community. We are so grateful to the Projects Officers and Subcommittee, and their family and friends, for volunteering and supporting this project's fruition.



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New projects have been on the horizon this year, with the completion of the toilet blocks at a rural girls school (The Gandhi Girls Sanitation Project) and a new partnership to support clinics run by Medical Action Myanmar. We are balancing growing our impact with the need to secure sustainable funding sources, a challenge in today's competitive donor environment.

There's an old cliché in global health to "think global, act local." In addition to our international projects, MSAP also provides students with local opportunities to contribute to projects. Our initiatives supporting healthcare of refugees and asylum seekers with AMSA Crossing Borders for Health illustrates this.

But before we can take action, we must first be well-informed. Education has always been a central focus within MSAP. The highlight of our Education portfolio is our annual Global Health Short Course, and the 2017 Education officers truly showcased this with the diversity of speakers and backgrounds spanning HIV/AIDS, not-for-profit organisations, refugee health, and global health careers. We were impressed with the thoughtful questions and lively discussion from the audience each week.

Global health is a highly collaborative arena. New connections with our Alumni, including founders Dr Greg Fox and Dr Greg Moloney, offer exciting opportunities to engage over our shared interest in global health. We hope to continue to grow the Alumni Network in the future. We also enjoyed celebrating our ongoing collaborations with UNSW Medical Society to fundraise for Food For Thought, and with Western Sydney University Medical Society (WSUMS) and Global Health Awareness Western Sydney (GHAWS) for Red Party to fundraise for Medical Action Myanmar.

As 2017 Co-Chairs, we have endeavoured to build connections to help MSAP sustain itself long-term, and ultimately continue to expand its impact in overseas communities as well as locally in the hearts and minds of future generations of doctors. Every week we have been inspired by the passion of the MSAP family, from the Executive, to the Subcommittees, and everyone who volunteered and attended our events. We cannot thank you enough – as members, donors, mentors, friends - for bringing energy and hope to MSAP. The incoming 2018 team is rich with talent, enthusiasm and fresh ideas, and are so excited for what they will bring to MSAP. We're looking forward to seeing MSAP continue to grow over the coming years!



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# Who We Are

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## Our Story

MSAP was established in 2001 by UNSW medical students Greg Fox and Greg Moloney. The two Gregs were inspired to set up MSAP after their elective placements in a Malawi hospital where they were made critically aware of the pitfalls of health resource poor communities. On one experience attending to a car accident victim, they opened the resuscitation box only to find a band-aid and a dead cockroach. This realisation about the stark lack of basic medical equipment in resource-poor communities motivated them to establish MSAP and initiate a medical supply project (now the Elective Aid Program). Sixteen years later, MSAP continues its legacy of supplying medical equipment to the developing world, and is developing its role in education and advocacy for global health issues.

## Vision and Mission

MSAP envisions a world with equitable, sustainable and universal healthcare. By educating and connecting medical students and tomorrow's health practitioners, MSAP aims to empower a new generation to collaborate towards the elimination of health inequalities facing communities around the world.

## Management Structure

MSAP is a student-run organisation at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia. MSAP is run by a team of 17 volunteer executive members, with an additional 20 subcommittee volunteers and a general membership of over 300 students. We support our work through donations, fundraising, and where possible, sponsorship.

As the Global Health Group (GHG) of UNSW, MSAP is part of the Global Health Committee of the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA), which represents and coordinates medical students interested in global health.



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MSAP Executive	Sub-Committees
Co-Chairs	
Secretary	
Finance Officer	
Education Officers	
Electives Officers	Electives Sub-Committee
Projects Officers	Projects Sub-Committee
Publicity Officer	Publicity Sub-Committee
Sponsorship & Alumni Officer	Sponsorship Sub-Committee
First Year Representatives	
<i>AMSA Global Health</i>	
AMSA Global Health Representative	
Crossing Borders Officer	Crossing Borders Sub-Committee
Code Green Officer	Code Green Sub-Committee

## **MSAP EXECUTIVE 2017**

Co-Chairs  
Secretary  
Finance Officer  
Education Officers  
Electives Officers  
Projects Officers  
Publicity Officer  
Sponsorship Officer  
AMSA Global Health Representative  
Crossing Borders Officer  
Code Green Officer  
First Year Representatives

Carrie Lee & Isaac Chan  
Damindri Fernando  
Lokesh Sharma  
Echo Deng & Lisha Lobo  
Shafkat Rahman & Tharani Tharmakumar  
Heeral Thakkar & Sharanya Mohan  
Wendy Winata  
Niyaz Mostafa  
Andrew Coulshed  
Patrick Song  
Ellie Lun  
Jumaana Abdu & Vishni Ravindran

# International Projects

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## The Elective Aid Project

MSAP ELECTIVES OFFICERS SHAFKAT RAHMAN & THARANI THARMAKUMAR

Cost for 2016-2017: \$6,390 (\$500 per elective site x 14 students)

Projected cost for 2017-2018: \$10,000 (\$500 per elective site x 20 students)

Funding: Previous Donations

The Elective Aid Program (previously known as the Elective Grant Scheme) is an expansion of MSAP's longest running project, donating medical equipment to hospitals in developing countries. As of 2015, MSAP no longer ships equipment overseas, but facilitates students to purchase new equipment in-country. Every year, MSAP provides monetary grants of up to \$500 per student for fifth year medical students to purchase resources for hospitals in developing countries where they are undertaking elective placements. By providing medical equipment, the project seeks to improve health outcomes and ease financial barriers to adequate healthcare in these communities.

Over the 2016-2017 elective period, 14 students participated in the Elective Aid Program, donating equipment to hospitals in the Solomon Islands, Nepal, Tanzania, Cambodia and Kenya. Various donations included antibiotics, pulse oximeters, surgical gloves and trolleys for emergency departments. For the 2017-2018 elective period, 17 students so far have signed up to make donations to a total of nine countries.



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*2016-2017 medical students donating medical equipment in Tanzania (top left), Solomon Islands (top right) and Nepal (bottom left and right)*



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## Food For Thought

MSAP PROJECT OFFICERS HEERAL THAKKAR & SHARANYA MOHAN

2017 Annual cost: \$3,000 (\$20 feeds one child for a year)

2018 Projected cost: \$3,500

Funding: \$3,500 (from annual food stall at Diwali Mela Festival, Parramatta)

MSAP believes that every child should have access to a basic education. In 2016, MSAP established the Food for Thought project at the Seem Shala Jibhaipura school in rural Gujarat, India. The project aims to increase school attendance rates, participation and attention by targeting student nutrition.

In 1984, the Government of India identified poor education as a major issue, launching the 'Midday Meal Scheme' to incentivise parents to send their children to school by providing school students with one square meal per day. Later in 2001, this was amended to one cooked meal a day. However, despite these efforts, it is well recognised that both nutrition and education for school students remain subpar.

This was starkly apparent when MSAP Project Officer Heeral Thakkar visited Seem Shala Jibhaipura, a school in Nadiad, rural Gujarat, in December 2015. Heeral saw that many students were tired and finding it difficult to concentrate in class. Nutrition is an underlying issue. Many students in this population do not receive sufficient nutrition at home, and have deficiencies in iron, calcium, vitamins and minerals.

After liaising with nutritionists, MSAP began the Food For Thought project to provide nutritional supplements for the students at Seem Shala Jibhaipura. This includes Bournvita with milk, chickpeas, nuts and fresh fruit, three times a week.

MSAP also creates health education videos twice a year to educate students about good health practices. The July 2017 health education video explored the importance of good nutrition, and educated students about why Food for Thought consists of its specific foods. A video sent in December explored the effects of unhealthy lifestyle habits such as smoking, alcohol and paan (betel leaf/tobacco).

## Impact

In 2017, MSAP provided nutritional supplements and health education to 180 students.

Feedback from teachers and parents have described a positive response to the nutritional supplements. Teachers noticed improvements in class numbers as parents respond to the attendance incentive of accessible meals. Children have also been more energetic and attentive in class. Baseline height, weight and mid-upper arm circumference measurements were taken in March 2016 and every six months thereafter. In March of 2018, we hope to have enough data to effectively quantify the effect of the Food for Thought project.

The major goal in 2017 was to establish project sustainability. Through the hard work of volunteers at the annual Diwali Mela Festival food stall, and the gracious donations of students at UNSW and donors from the wider community, Food for Thought will continue to provide for the 180 students at Seem Shala Jibhaipura.

## Project Timeline

<b>2016</b>	<u>January</u>	Heeral Thakkar scouted for primary schools in Nadiad, Eastern Gujarat, India, and selected Seem Shala Jibhaipura
	<u>March</u>	Official launch of Food Thought: children received their first meals with the program  Baseline measurements taken
	<u>May</u>	First educational video (topic: hygiene)
	<u>September</u>	Six monthly review trip and measurements by Heeral Thakkar & Sharanya Mohan  Santram Eye Hospital provided eye checks and glasses to students with identified vision difficulties  Second educational video (topic: handwashing)
	<u>October</u>	First food stall at Diwali Mela Festival, Parramatta, Australia (annual fundraiser for Food For Thought)



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	<u>December</u>	Review trip by Heeral Thakkar – feedback sought from school and families of students.  Screening dental checks performed, dental caries were common
<b>2017</b>	<u>January</u>	The collaboration between MSAP and the Nadiad community inspired the local mayor to invest in the school by constructing new classrooms to extend the school's capacity to grade 5 and 6 students, and developing a bore well for running water (Completed January 2017)
	<u>September</u>	Third education video (topic: nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices)
	<u>October</u>	Annual Diwali Mela Festival fundraiser

## Gandhi Girls Sanitation Project

MSAP FINANCE OFFICER LOKESH SHARMA

Total Project Cost: \$18,094

Funding: Donations received prior to 2016



*The toilet blocks before (left) and after (right) construction, funded by Medical Students' Aid Project (MSAP). Construction commenced in January 2017 and was completed in July 2017.*

Poor sanitation facilities at schools impedes girls' access to education. In 2017, MSAP completed construction of 12 new toilets at Kanya Vidhya Mandir school, a K-12 boarding school for rural and tribal girls in rural Madhya Pradesh, India, run by the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust (KGNMT). The KGNMT was established by Mahatma Gandhi in 1944, in honour of his wife, to educate and empower rural and remote women.

The primary aim of the Gandhi Girls Sanitation Project was to cultivate and encourage safe and hygienic toileting practices by providing students with proper flushing toileting facilities. Moreover, it was hoped that an improvement in the facilities would encourage girls to attend school and improve female literacy.

During a visit to the school by MSAP Treasurer Lokesh Sharma in early 2016, the existing 50-year-old toilet building was in a state of disrepair. Only 3 of the 12 toilets were functioning.

Doors were hanging from hinges, there were no hand-washing basins nearby and the block was some distance from the boarding quarters. Inspired by and responding to Indian government campaigns for better toilet practices and facilities in the country (Swachh Bharat Abhiyan or "Clean India Mission"), MSAP invested \$18,000 to build two toilet blocks (six toilets per block) for the 150 girls that board at the school.

The construction of new blocks of toilets connected to the boarding quarters commenced in late 2016, in partnership with school officials and engineers. Each new block has its own septic tank, rain water tanks to provide a sustainable water supply for flushing, hand washing basins, and internal connections to incinerators for disposal of sanitary napkins. The project was successfully completed in June 2017, just in time for the new school year.

## Impact

Qualitative feedback collected from the girls boarding at the school showcases that the construction of toilets has been a welcome transformation for the hostel. The students, from various rural districts of the state of MP, remarked that they all come from homes with access to toilet facilities. So, whilst the provision of new toilets did not significantly influence their decision to board at the school, the toilets have made significant improvements to their quality of life. The new location and number of toilets makes them convenient, easily accessible and efficient for the large number of students boarding at the school. A relative shortage of rain fall has proved to be challenging. For future toilet projects, the students have suggested adoption of a low water consumption model given that shortage of water is a seasonal problem.

## In the Media:

UNSW Newsroom, Toilet block funded by UNSW students improves lives of rural Indian schoolgirls, 21 August 2017

[Accessed from <https://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/students/toilet-block-funded-unsw-students-improves-lives-rural-indian-schoolgirls>]

## Medical Action Myanmar

MSAP CO-CHAIR CARRIE LEE

2017 Annual cost: \$2,812.00 (\$2676.95 from Combined WSU/MSAP Red Party and Red Week)

2018 Projected cost: \$2,800.00

Funding: Combined WSU/MSAP Red Party and Red Week



*Hlaingthayar Clinic, Medical Action Myanmar, Yangon, Myanmar. Photos by 2018 Project Officer Yuri Nwe.*

Access to healthcare in Myanmar (Burma) is difficult for those with little to spare. With an under-funded health system, healthcare is typically privatised and many people cannot afford to pay their medical expenses out-of-pocket. Medical Action Myanmar (MAM) is an international medical aid organisation dedicated to improving access to health services for the people of Myanmar. MAM is non-profit, non-political and non-religious. MAM provides comprehensive primary healthcare services including maternal and child care, malnutrition treatment, sexual and reproductive health, and tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS treatment. They operate clinics in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas to reach people who are most in



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need. In 2016, they provided over 119,200 consultations free of charge, funded by private donors.

In 2017, MSAP began a partnership to support MAM at one of their clinics in the township Hlaingthayar. MSAP believes that MAM's mission and activities align with our values of health equity by providing health services to those at significant disadvantage. Their emphasis on HIV/AIDS, antenatal and sexual health services also align with our interest to develop our Sexual & Reproductive Health portfolio.

MSAP will donate \$2800 per year for three years (2017-2019). This will support approximately 315 consultations per year. Each consultation costs approximately \$9 AUD, covering medications and running costs (64%) and staff costs (19%). The first donation of \$2800 AUD was sent in December 2017. Funds this year were raised by MSAP and Western Sydney University Medical Society at our annual joint Red Party and the WSU Red Week. Funding from our joint Red Party and Red Week will continue in 2018.

## Medical Textbook Donations

MSAP arranged for medical textbooks donated by McGraw Hill to be delivered to health professionals and students in Ethiopia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea. The textbooks were in brand-new condition and included a range of topics such as paediatrics, internal medicine, general practice, pathology, anaesthetics, medical dictionaries, anatomy and physiology.



*Medical textbooks delivered to physicians in Kaesong, the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (left) and to the Community Liaison Officer from the Ethiopian Embassy (right)*

**For enquiries about donating medical textbooks, please contact [chair@msap.org.au](mailto:chair@msap.org.au)**

*Out of consideration to the recipients, we accept textbooks in new condition and prefer recent editions to ensure information is up to date with current practice.*

## Local Initiatives

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MSAP engages with medical students to spark an interest in global health. In particular, we provide students with opportunities to learn about real-world global health challenges during their studies, with the aim of giving them the knowledge and inspiration to tackle these issues in their future careers.

### Global Health Short Course

MSAP EDUCATION OFFICERS ECHO DENG & LISHA LOBO



MSAP's largest annual event, Global Health Short Course (GHSC) is a four-week seminar series about topical global health issues. This year, with the theme of 'Illuminate, Educate, Advocate', we focused on providing tangible ways for attendees to apply their newly acquired skills and knowledge in community-based projects. Furthermore, GHSC 2017 aimed to expand our reach into students from different faculties and universities, using a revamped social media campaign to achieve this. We trialled a new system of video recordings to provide access to

rural students or those who could not attend all weeks in person. This year we had 230 attendees, including 14 rural students.

Our first guest speaker was Ms. Alanna Maycock, a paediatric nurse championing refugee health and rights since witnessing the conditions in immigration detention on Nauru. Not only were her experiences and accounts deeply moving, but her resolve and courage in continuing to speak out against atrocities occurring in mandatory detention were inspiring. It was an unforgettable start to GHSC 2017.

The second talk was given by Professor David Cooper, a pioneer in HIV research and the inaugural director of the Kirby Institute. Professor Cooper gave attendees a unique insight into the timeline of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, from its early beginnings in the 1980's to the current global situation.



*Global Health Short Course 2017: Professor David Cooper talks about the global HIV epidemic (left) and Ms Sivanjana Kathiravel talking about how Palmera Projects and the Hunger Project are tackling poverty and health in rural communities (right)*

We were excited to welcome back a familiar face as our third speaker. Dr Greg Fox, who co-founded MSAP, is now a respiratory physician specialising in TB management in resource-limited settings. As university students, we often feel powerless and overwhelmed in the face of immensely global health issues. However, Dr. Fox changed this by providing practical advice about ways we can get involved in global health, even as students. Moreover, seeing his passion for global health evolving from his interest during university into a future career was incredibly inspiring.



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The final week of GHSC had a change of pace. Our final speaker, Ms. Sivanjana Kathiravel, shed light on how poverty and sustainability interact with health issues in developing communities, drawing on her experiences in rural Sri Lanka. Ms. Kathiravel works with Palmera Projects, a charity that supports sustainable small business projects in rural developing communities, and the Hunger Project, a non-profit organisation working to reduce world poverty and hunger.

Feedback from attendees was positive, often noting that personal stories were the most engaging and inspiring part of GHSC. By the end of GHSC, 178 attendees completed at least 3 out of the 4 weeks and received a certificate signed by the Dean of Medicine.



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## Global Health Mailout

This year we continued MSAP's monthly educational mailouts, each focussing on a specific global health topic. To enhance the relevance and engagement with MSAP members, the issues were chosen for two purposes: to align with Phase One Medicine teaching, and for their global health significance. Each mailout consisted of an overview of the issue, including an overview of the burden or epidemiology of the issue, relevant stakeholders, key challenges and how it was being addressed. The mailouts were designed as newsletters presented in a digestible format. They included links and resources for readers to further their knowledge or get involved in projects on the specific issues.

Topics covered this year included:

- HIV/AIDS
- Tuberculosis
- Reproductive health issues
- World hunger
- Viral hepatitis
- Sugar tax
- Climate health

## Birthing Kit Night

MSAP PROJECT OFFICERS HEERAL THAKKAR & SHARANYA MOHAN

**Every day, over 830 women die from preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth, almost all in developing countries. Many give birth in unsanitary conditions or without a skilled attendant.**



MSAP's annual Birthing Kit Assembly Night at Edmund Blackett, Prince of Wales, is a great way for students to get hands-on experience and learn about global health aid. This year we packed 1000 birthing kits from the Birthing Kit Foundation to send to developing countries. Each kit costs \$3 and contains simple materials - a sterile plastic groundsheet, soap, gloves, gauze, string and scalpel. This provides mothers with a sterile environment to give birth, reducing both maternal and infant mortality.



*Contents of a birthing kit. Source: Birthing Kit Foundation*

With students sitting around a circular table, everyone has a specific job - from folding ground sheets, counting gauze and string, and vacuum sealing each package. Whilst they pack the kits, students get to know each other, a fun and dedicated gathering of like-minded individuals.



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## First Year Engagement

FIRST YEAR REPRESENTATIVES JUMAANA ABDU & VISHNI RAVINDRAN

MSAP elects First Year Representatives to the Exec team as a way of planting seeds of global health interest in younger cohorts. Their time on the MSAP executive provides an invaluable learning experience, particularly useful as they or their peers take on future roles. First years are typically the most eager and time-free of medical students. As such, they are a key target audience for MSAP's global health education and fundraising events. The First Year Representatives provide a connection to this student body, encouraging friends to attend MSAP events.

*"Being involved with MSAP has given me an excellent reminder of the humanitarian reasons behind my original passion for medicine. Without it, I wouldn't have the skills, understanding and probably even the same amount of passion for global health as I do now."*

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*Jumaana Abdu, MSAP First Year Representative, 2017*

## MedCamp

MSAP PROJECT OFFICERS HEERAL THAKKAR & SHARANYA MOHAN

MSAP's presence at Medcamp in February is one of the first tastes of global health that incoming bright-eyed medical students encounter. This year, MSAP ran an educational activity designed to provide insight into global inequality. Through a quick game of biased global health trivia with a high stakes prize of ice blocks, students are forced to experience what inequality feels like. Following outraged outbursts soothed by ice blocks for all, we let students know that they can direct their passion for equality in health care through MSAP's numerous events from getting educated at GHSC to getting hands on at MSAP's Birthing Kit Night.

## Launch Night

### MSAP ELECTIVES OFFICERS SHAFKAT RAHMAN & THARANI THARMAKUMAR

Launch Night is MSAP's first event for the year. It provides an opportunity to introduce the upcoming year of MSAP events and projects to new and returning students, especially first year students. The night begins with inspiring speeches from sixth year students, recently returned from completing medical electives in developing countries. These student speakers donated medical equipment on their electives as part of the Elective Aid Program. Each MSAP portfolio has a stall to promote their events and projects, allowing attendees to chat to the Officers about portfolios that interest them. The Elective Photo Competition is also held on this night, showcasing photos that students have taken on their elective.

Overall, the Launch Night is a good introduction and overview of MSAP events and projects that inspires first year students to get involved and engage with global health!



*Winner: People and Everyday Life Category "Market Day in a Maasai Village", Engaruka Village, Tanzania by Lily Xu*

# AMSA Global Health Initiatives

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## AMSA Global Health Report

AMSA GLOBAL HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE ANDREW COULSHED

2017 was another exciting year for AMSA Global Health at UNSW, with a bundle of exciting collaborations, projects and events.



As part of AMSA Global Health, we are lucky enough to work with other medical student-run global health groups from across Australia. This happens at AMSA Global Health Councils, which run twice a year. At this year's councils, we were able to both learn about exciting projects run by other global health groups, as well as describe our own experiences and help the development of other groups. We also learnt from a variety of interesting speakers, and collectively brainstormed new strategies for engaging people with global health and making a difference. These discussions covered a range of topics, including refugee and asylum seeker health, climate health, sexual and reproductive health, global health policy and more.

On top of this, UNSW sent their annual delegation to AMSA's Global Health Conference (GHC) in 2017. Thirty students from UNSW learnt from prominent medical and political leaders such as Senator Richard Di Natale (Leader of the Australian Greens), Clementine Ford (feminist author) and Dr Stewart Condon (President of MSF Australia). This was on top of a stellar networking and social program, involving almost 700 medical students from around Australia.



We'd like to extend our thanks to Arc UNSW, who through the Student Community Development Grant (SCDG), provided generous financial support for our students to attend GHC. The SCDG helps make GHC more affordable for our students, and supports exciting new initiatives such as this year's new development of MSAP merchandise for delegates.

Back home, we continued our success with Code Green, Crossing Borders, and Red Party (Sexual & Reproductive Health) projects. These areas are explored more below, but it is safe to say they were a big part of our global health work this year, and we look forward to staying involved!

## Red Party



Red Party 2017 was successful for another year running, drawing students from both Western Sydney University and University of New South Wales. This year, it was held at the Potts Point Hotel, and was attended by approximately 200 people. Even better, we collectively raised almost \$3000 for Medical Action Myanmar, our chosen charity, through donations, ticket sales and the Red Week held by the Western Sydney Medical Society. We look forward to hopefully doing this again next year, spreading awareness, raising money and having a good time!



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## Crossing Borders

### CROSSING BORDERS OFFICER PATRICK SONG

Crossing Borders for Health is an AMSA Global Health initiative supported by MSAP at UNSW. The aim of Crossing Borders is to help remove barriers to healthcare for refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants.

## National Justice Project

Established in 2016, MSAP has an ongoing relationship with the National Justice Project (NJP), a not-for-profit legal firm with an aim to achieve social justice. MSAP coordinates medical student volunteers to create chronologies from medical files to support NJP legal cases. In particular, this involves cases for people seeking asylum and Indigenous people in incarceration.

## Crossing Borders Night: Refugee Health Myths & Realities

To inspire and motivate the student body to take action for refugee health, Refugee Health Myths & Realities, was a night of panel discussion held in August 2017. This annual event caters to the wider medical student body, who have an ethical responsibility to the health of Australian refugees. It aims to foster interest and galvanise action.

Forerunners in the field provided insights into how the journey of refugees shapes their outlook on the cause. Panelists Dr Mitchell Smith (Director of NSW Refugee Health Service) and Dr Barri Phataford (Founder & President of Doctors for Refugees); Mitchell Skipsey (Solicitor, Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS)) and Kerri Mills (Asylum Seeker Centre (ASC)) opened with an overview of their experiences. This was followed by a captivating Q&A discussion ranging from the definition of refugee status to the legal hurdles for detainees to obtain adequate healthcare.

## SOS Manus Campaign



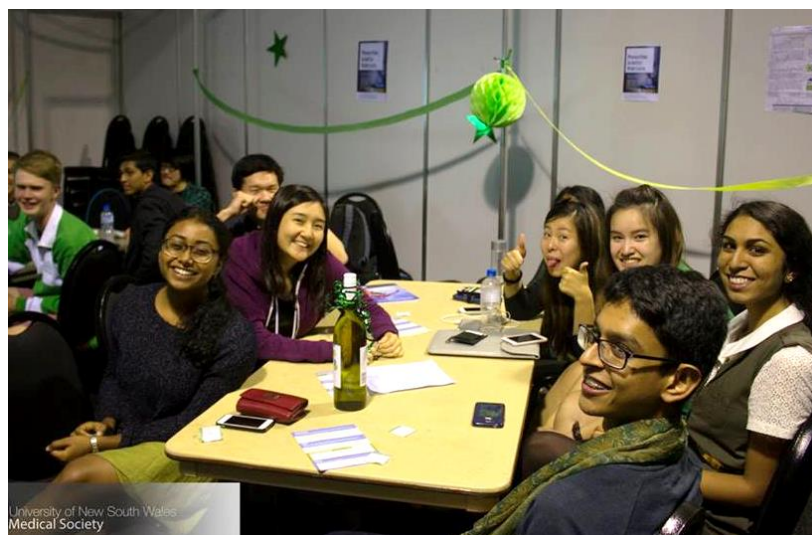
In November 2017, over 400 asylum seekers on Manus Island were forcibly relocated from the Australian-operated detention centre to an alternative accommodation in the Lorengau township. There were serious concerns about their safety, access to health services and living conditions at the new accommodation. As part of AMSA's nationwide #SOSManus campaign, medical students from UNSW expressed their condemnation of the situation, calling on the government to take urgent action to improve health services on Manus Island. In December 2017, UNSW students met to take photos sent with AMSA's open letter to the Australian government.

## Code Green

### MSAP CODE GREEN OFFICER ELLIE LUN

Code Green is the national AMSA Global Health project for climate health, run at UNSW by MSAP. We aim to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change on our wellbeing and livelihoods.

Treevia Night is MSAP's annual climate health event featuring a mix of fun and educational trivia rounds and competitive games, run in collaboration by MSAP and MedSoc Charities. Teams come dressed in green attire for bonus points! In 2017, we raised \$263 for the Climate and Health Alliance.



In 2017, the national Code Green team developed a Climate Health e-Short Course exploring issues around the impact of climate change on respiratory health, infectious diseases, climate refugees, and advocacy training. MSAP promoted the online course and encouraged people to make the most of this educational resource.

# Financial Report

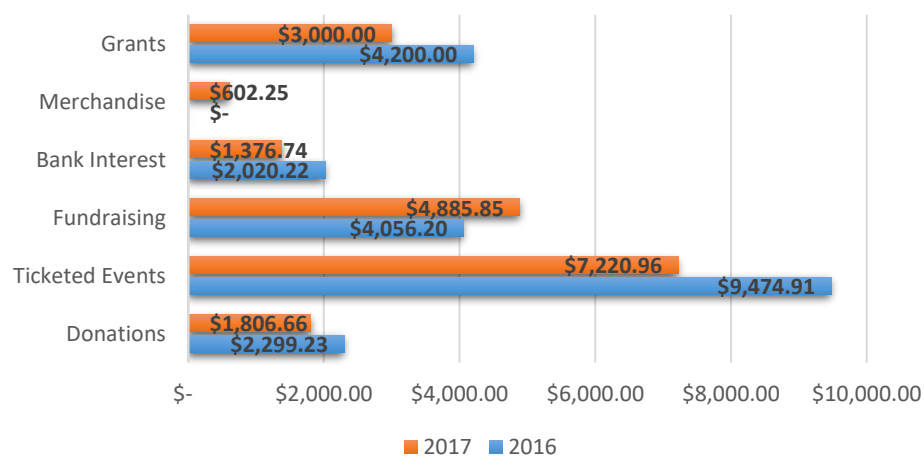
MSAP FINANCE OFFICER LOKESH SHARMA

## Year in Review

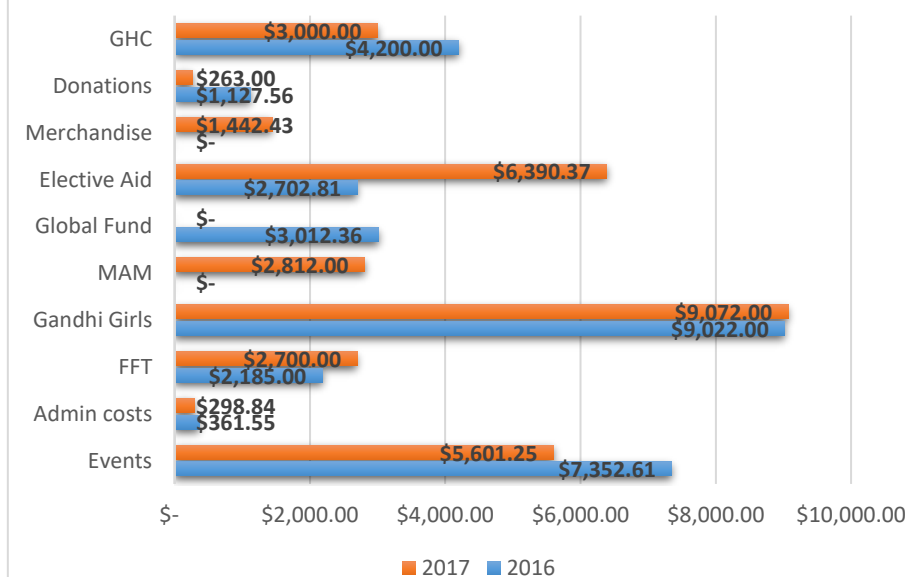
MSAP recorded an overall loss of \$12,987.43 in 2017, resulting from a planned expansion of merchandise and the Elective Aid Program as well as drops in income from donations, ticketed event revenue, grants and bank interest. Overall revenue dropped 15.6% to \$18,606.46 (2016: \$22,050.56) due to a range of factors – reduction in ticketed events from 8 in 2016 to 6 in 2017 as well as a small drop in ticket sales, drop in earnings from bank interest and reduction of grant funding for Global Health Conference (GHC) delegates. Overall expenditure increased around 5% to \$28,458.39 in 2017 (2016: \$29,963.89) due to expansion of the Elective Aid program and merchandise. Event expenditure dropped due to a reduction in events as more focus was directed towards expanding Food For Thought (FFT), Elective Aid Program and creating a new relationship with Medical Action Myanmar (MAM). Fundraising and donations from previous years has been able to cover the losses over the last two years as MSAP has grown larger with a focussed expansion of international projects. Despite a decline in existing savings due to expansion of projects, MSAP finishes 2017 with a healthy closing balance of \$52,435.57 and remains in a secure financial position.

<u>Income</u>			<u>Expenses</u>		
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>		<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<u>Donations</u>	\$ 2,299.23	\$ 1,806.66	<u>Events</u>	\$ 7,352.61	\$ 5,601.25
<u>Ticketed Events</u>	\$ 9,474.91	\$ 7,220.96	<u>Admin costs</u>	\$ 361.55	\$ 298.84
<u>Fundraising</u>	\$ 4,056.20	\$ 4,885.85	<u>FFT</u>	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 2,700.00
<u>Bank Interest</u>	\$ 2,020.22	\$ 1,376.74	<u>Gandhi Girls</u>	\$ 9,022.00	\$ 9,072.00
<u>Merchandise</u>	\$ -	\$ 602.25	<u>MAM</u>	\$ -	\$ 2,812.00
<u>Grants</u>	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 3,000.00	<u>Global Fund</u>	\$ 3,012.36	\$ -
			<u>Elective Aid</u>	\$ 2,702.81	\$ 6,390.37
			<u>Merchandise</u>	\$ -	\$ 1,442.43
			<u>Donations</u>	\$ 1,127.56	\$ 263.00
			<u>GHC</u>	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,050.56</b>	<b>\$18,892.46</b>		<b>\$29,963.89</b>	<b>\$31,579.89</b>

## 2016-17 MSAP Income



## 2016-17 MSAP Expenses





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## Future Projections

In 2018, MSAP has budgeted \$10,000 expenditure to continue the planned expansion of the Elective Aid Program. A small increase in FFT expenditure is also anticipated in 2018 with expansions currently being planned. Overall, it is expected that expenditure will drop 10-20% with the Gandhi Girls Sanitation Project being completed, no planned merchandise purchase and other expenses remaining stable. In 2018, the aim will be to continue increasing our local and international impact as well to grow and stabilise our income streams of fundraising, donations, grants and ticketed events. Income from bank interest is projected to fall with a reduction in savings.

## Challenges

Increasing income from donations continues to be a challenge in a tough and ever-competitive market. Experience gained from difficulties encountered over 2016 and 2017 will assist us to prudently increase marketing, size of events and fundraisers to attract larger audiences as well as secure grants, long-term sponsors and donors with a multi-pronged approach to fundraising. An increase in donations will be required to balance our expanded international portfolio as well as increase our savings pool for future local and global projects.



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# Get Involved

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## **1. Become an MSAP Member (it's free!)**

MSAP Members receive the monthly global health mailout and updates about events and volunteering opportunities. We welcome members to attend our events, volunteer, and apply for Executive and Sub-committee positions (pending available nomination periods).

Sign up here: <https://msap.org.au/get-involved/>

Connect with us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/msapfb>

## **2. Donate to support our work**

We truly value the support of all our donors who make our impact possible. As MSAP is run entirely by student volunteers, 100% of donations go towards supporting our programs locally and internationally. Tax deductible donations can be made via the UNSW Foundation. Simply visit <https://msap.org.au/donate-now/>

The UNSW Foundation is unable to provide us with the contact details of donors for privacy reasons. If you have donated, please email us at [chair@msap.org.au](mailto:chair@msap.org.au) so that we can show our appreciation!



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## MSAP Alumni

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We envision that the MSAP Alumni network will be a pathway for current and previous members of MSAP to remain connected and support the sustainability and effectiveness/impact of MSAP's projects and activities. Any UNSW medical graduate is eligible to join the MSAP Alumni.

As this Alumni network grows, we hope that potential activities will include:

- Guest speaker engagements
- Attending events
- Alumni Newsletter providing updates about MSAP's projects
- Advice about MSAP's international projects
- Facilitating overseas electives
- Broader public awareness/publicity opportunities
- Informal mentoring
- Financial support

To join the MSAP Alumni, please visit <https://msap.org.au/alumni/>