Submission No 3

Inquiry into Australia’s Relationship with Timor-Leste

Organisation: Rotary International (District 9680)
Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry

History of Rotary International

The world’s first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, was formed on 23rd February 1905 by Paul Harris, an attorney who wished to capture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he felt in the small towns of his youth.

The Rotary name derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members’ offices. Rotary’s popularity spread and by 1921 Rotary Clubs had been formed on six continents.

In 1922 the organisation formally adopted the name “Rotary International”.

As Rotary grew its mission expanded beyond serving club members’ professional and social interests. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need. The organisation’s dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its motto: Service Above Self.

The Four-Way Test

In 1932 Rotarian Herbert J Taylor created The Four Way Test, a code of ethics adopted by Rotary 11 years later. The test, which has been translated into more than 100 languages, asks the following questions:

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

In 1945, 49 Rotary Club members served in 29 delegations to the UN Charter Conference. Rotary still actively participates in UN conferences by sending observers to major meetings and covering the United Nations in its publications.

“Few there are who do not recognise the good work which is done by Rotary clubs throughout the free world,” former Prime Minister, Winston Churchill of Great Britain, once declared.

In 1989, the organisation voted to admit women into clubs worldwide. Today women are an integral part of Rotary’s membership.

As it approached the 21st century, Rotary worked to meet society’s changing needs, expanding its service efforts to address such pressing issues as environmental degradation, illiteracy, world hunger, and children at risk.

Today 1.2 million Rotarians belong to over 32,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Of the 1.2 million Rotarians, the major membership countries are:

- United States of America 348,823
- India 121,531
- Japan 88,894
- Korea 62,810
- Brazil 57,192
- Germany 51,293
Structure in Australia

There are twenty-two districts in Australia, and our district 9680, has 67 clubs between Toukley and North Sydney, and west out to Rouse Hill. From July 1 of this year we will become district 9685 and include another 12 clubs from the Blue Mountains.

Clubs are active across 4 outreach avenues of service – International, Vocational, Community, and Youth. Club and district officers typical change annually, although in recent years some district leadership positions are held for up to three years to improve continuity and planning.

Projects

Projects carried out by clubs in the district number in the several hundreds, and of these about 100 are International – providing humanitarian and educational assistance to those in need, all over the world.

Pertinent to this submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry, District 9680 is conducting some 36 projects in East Timor. Attached is a summary of those, indicating the clubs which are involved in them. They are grouped under the Six Areas of Focus for humanitarian and educational work defined as areas of Rotary expertise by Rotary International.

Particular attention is drawn to the Rotary Youth Leadership Award course that has now been run three times and will be run again in September of this year. The demand for this has ballooned over the years and in 2012 places were offered for 80 participants from 700 applications.

Inquiry Terms of Reference

Of the six terms of reference, items 2, 4 and 5 are significant in the variety of Rotary aid projects in Timor Leste, viz;

- Aid, including support with governance issues;
- Cultural, educational and scientific relations and exchanges;
- People to people links

The purpose of making this submission is to ensure the Inquiry is aware of the extent of the penetration of Rotary in Timor Leste. There is one Rotary club in Timor Leste, the Rotary Club of Dili, and it is part of District 9550 (Northern Territory and North Queensland).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peace &amp; Conflict Resolution</th>
<th>Disease Prevention and Treatment</th>
<th>Water &amp; Sanitation</th>
<th>Maternal &amp; Child Health</th>
<th>Basic Education &amp; Literacy</th>
<th>Economic &amp; Community Development</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dental Project</td>
<td>Water and Sanitation project in Oecusse – Gladesville</td>
<td>Midwives in East Timor – Ambulance Contact: Margaret Aggar Erina, Kariong/Somersby, North Gosford</td>
<td>School Project</td>
<td>Dee Why/Warringah</td>
<td>Soidbada Village Tamara Sloper-Harding Brookvale and Brookvale Shire Council Friends of Soidbada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supply of medical equipment to National Hospital in Dili – Kenthurst</td>
<td>Water &amp; Sanitation Roseville Chase, Northbridge</td>
<td>Medical Equipment to Midwives of East Timor project - Kenthurst</td>
<td>School building in Hato Udo Turramurra</td>
<td>Support for Oecusse District Judy Chaunard Rotary eClub of Greater Sydney</td>
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<td>Anasthetic Machines North Ryde</td>
<td>Water Projects Epping</td>
<td>Assistance to an Orphanage in Oecusse – North Ryde</td>
<td>School Uniforms to Ossu with Chatswood High School – Chatswood Sunrise and Chatswood International</td>
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<td>PRADET Grant for NTT Program, Lane Cove</td>
<td>HIAM Health Lane Cove</td>
<td>Manufahi Teacher Training Centre Northbridge</td>
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<td>Assistance to students for teacher training North Ryde Teacher Scholarships Carlingford</td>
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<td>School Project Hunters Hill Hato Udo School Lindfield</td>
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**TOTALS** = 0 projects 4 projects 3 projects 4 projects 8 projects 1 project
A New Program - Young Timorese adults working across all six areas and working with government and other agencies across all areas of focus according to identified community need in their districts and to the resources available.

**Peace & Conflict Resolution**
- Medical Equipment 
- Medical Supplies
- Diplomacy Training Dili (also in assoc. Eth Uni of Sydney)

**Basic Education & Literacy**
- Teachers for Timor
- Emergency Architects
- Support for university training of Biblioteka Ermera director - Anne and David Rands

**Economic & Community Development**
- Catholic University & Mentors and other Projects
- Development forum Sydney - Feb 2013 and English Language Classes at MIT Feb –May 2013 for two women.

**Maternal & Child Health**
- Toilets in Schools
- Friendship Group Macituba
- HIAM Health

**Water & Sanitation**
- Toilets in Schools
- Peter Kindred, Chatswood

**Disease Prevention and Treatment**
- Health - equipment
- Health - medicines
- Dengue Training

**Rotary Youth Leadership Awards**
- RYLA - Angelo Raveane, Crows Nest
- RYLA Alumni and ROTARACT (Rotary Club of Dili) – DISTRICT COMMITTEES
- Theological Department

**NOTE:** These programs fit across two areas of focus.
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<tr>
<td>Funding a representative from RYLA ET to the RI Peace Forum Jan 2013</td>
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<td>Funding young adults to attend short English Language Courses in Sydney</td>
<td>Supporting the Rotaract Club of Dili with training and uniforms</td>
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**NOTE - also working in Timor Leste:** Blue Mountains – Friends of Hato Buitico, Bega Valley Rotary Association with Natarobra Agricultural College, other RAWCS Projects in Timor Leste, Northbridge Friends of Timor Leste .......... plus?

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY – connecting service providers in Timor Leste through a special FORUM in 2012 which will hopefully be repeated in 2014.