



## **TropLinks Health Action Plan**

### **Guam Market**

#### **Group Participants:**

- Chris Campbell (Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation)
- Doug Yek (Cairns Fertility Centre)
- Elisha McGuiness (Queensland Health, Cairns Public Health Unit)
- Dr Felicity Croker (James Cook University, School of Medicine and Dentistry)
- Jeanne Yovick (Cairns Fertility Centre)
- Leanne Coombe (Public Health Consultant)
- Tammy Allan (Queensland Health, Cairns Public Health Unit)

#### **Activities Undertaken to Date:**

- Cairns Fertility Centre participated in TropLinks Guam Trade Mission and met with President of the Medical Board

#### **Barriers for Health Projects in Guam Identified by Group:**

- Limited knowledge of the market for health services in Guam
- Limited funding available for public health services in Guam
- Cairns Fertility Centre needed to launch surgical services prior to further negotiations
- Only one public hospital with limited facilities and in need of refurbishment and expansion

#### **Opportunities for Future Activities and Projects Identified:**

- Cairns could become alternative location for IVF services, which are not covered by US health insurance (most clients currently go to the Philippines)
- Cairns could become alternative location for other day surgery procedures due to cost savings and proximity to Guam (patients currently often go to Hawaii or US)
- Obesity and diabetes is a significant public health issue due to high density of take away outlets, which could benefit from chronic disease management projects
- Dengue, malaria and other vector borne diseases a potential risk during construction associated with military build up, which could benefit from public health program
- Student placement programs could provide capacity building in Primary Health Care and augment existing services
- Need for environmental health services to address issues associated with recycling
- Potential to link with Pacific Islands Technical College

### **Further Information Needed:**

- Health Needs Assessment to identify other significant health issues
- Clarification on upgrades planned by government for health services
- Demand for training of health professionals in Australia
- Level and capacity of existing Guam health workforce
- Existence if any of health related NGO's in Guam

## **PNG Market**

### **Group Participants:**

- Chris Campbell (Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation)
- Doug Yek (Cairns Fertility Centre)
- Elisha McGuiness (Queensland Health, Cairns Public Health Unit)
- Dr Felicity Croker (James Cook University, School of Medicine and Dentistry)
- Helen Travers (University of Queensland, HITNet Project Manager)
- Jason Olsen (Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation)
- Jeanne Yovick (Cairns Fertility Centre)
- Leanne Coombe (Public Health Consultant)
- Tammy Allan (Queensland Health, Cairns Public Health Unit)

### **Activities Undertaken to Date:**

- UQ Mental Health & Well Being International Conference has PNG delegates
- QH cross border program
- Negotiations for expansion of HITNet program into PNG
- NHMRC funded projects at JCU to address poverty and social determinants
- WHO Collaboration Centre work on lymphatic filariasis
- Nursing Pathways program through JTA International
- Evaluation of WHO HIV/AIDS program
- AITHM and Cairns Institute have PNG connections
- PNG clients at Cairns Day Surgery Centre and Cairns Fertility Centre

### **Barriers for Health Projects in PNG Identified by Group:**

- Disaggregated health department in PNG
- Need training rather than higher level education

### **Opportunities for Future Activities and Projects Identified:**

- Medical tourism
- Occupational health and safety and work readiness projects are in high demand
- High morbidity and mortality associated with HIV and vector borne diseases to be addressed
- Centre for Oral Population Health student placements to provide programs
- Partnerships formed during Neglected Tropical Disease forum to be progressed

- E Health opportunities
- Tapping into mining and LNG projects to deliver health programs to employees and communities
- Potential to link with Pacific Islands Technical College

**Further Information Needed:**

- Health needs assessment to fill statistics void across PNG
- Potential private sector partners in PNG