



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Oncologist joins PIP team in Fiji**

**Tuesday 26 July, 2011**

Oncologist Professor Michael Sullivan will join the Pacific Islands Program team in Fiji in late July. The Program, co-ordinated by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and funded by AusAID, provides a range of paediatric services in the region that includes surgery, endocrinology, nephrology and oncology.

Professor Sullivan will offer diagnostic services free of charge and will work closely with local doctors and medical staff at Colonial War Memorial Hospital from 31 July to 3 August and Lautoka Hospital from 4 to 6 August.

Cancer is the third most common cause of disease-related death of children at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva. The inclusion of a paediatric oncologist in the team aims to make the hospital a regional hub for cancer services.

This will also serve as a precursor to the development of adult oncology services in the future.

The visit will run parallel with the Paediatric Surgery visit, headed by Mr Alex Auldist. Mr Auldist spent time training the only Fijian Paediatric Surgeon, Jitoko Cama, who now practices in Fiji after gaining his Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 2008.

Also joining the team will be returning volunteers anaesthetist David Linscott and nurse Chrissy Bond.

The 2011 visit will serve two purposes for the Pacific Islands Program, supporting Jitoko Cama and local registrars with the surgical care of complex paediatric cases, and to providing services and training relating to paediatric oncology and palliative care.

AusAID is to be commended for continuing to support this extremely important program.

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