



Awareness Cambodia  
Rebuilding the Children of Cambodia

# 2017 Overview

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

### A message from our CEO

As I reflect on what we have been able to achieve this year, I am both proud and humbled. I am immensely proud of all our successes, measured not only by milestones but by the little ways that we have made a difference to a life.

I also acknowledge that this success must be attributed to the dedication of many – from the generous and unwavering support of our donors and volunteers, the care and commitment of our staff both in-country and here in Australia, the life-changing partnerships we have with Government departments and private enterprises in Cambodia, the trusting relationships we have formed with the local Kompong Speu community, to the spirit and determination of the children and young adults in our care who have grasped the opportunities set before them and strived to make the most of them.

Our successes are set against a background of an increasingly volatile political landscape in Cambodia due to the upcoming national elections, deteriorating financial conditions in Australia and globally, and possible changes to Australian legislation that could impact the work of charities. Despite this, we have made significant inroads within our core programs. Details of our activities are outlined in this Overview.

As we continue to build on our programs in the year ahead, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has joined us on our journey. Together we are making a real difference in the lives of many Cambodians and seeing the fruits of our efforts being realised.



Dr Gary Hewett OAM  
CEO & Founder

# Highlights

- Sonshine Radio live broadcasts from Phnom Penh on Awareness Cambodia's work
- 62 children and young adults supported in our Child Development programs
- Over 60,000 meals produced at Sunshine House
- 5 former students get married!
- West Coast Eagles visited Sunshine House
- 4 babies from our past students arrive into the world!
- 10 schools involved in our education programs
- 700 backpacks delivered through Case for Change
- More than 500 students receive English Second Language (ESL) tuition
- Pisey and Somnang graduated from university with English Literature degrees
- Agricultural scholarship students Vorleak and Skorin graduated from university
- 1 vocational student graduated and moved into the community
- Deep sewerage laid at Graduation House
- Miss New Zealand visits Sunshine House
- Operation Nightingale growing – approx. 55 staff including doctors, nurses, midwives, and pharmacists working within our clinics
- 3,500 Cambodian villagers provided with year-round medical care
- 14-16 clinics per month conducted, 2 of them dedicated to women's health
- 600 Cambodians seen by international medical team volunteers



## OUR PEOPLE

### Our People

“Strategic and productive programs depend on the quality of their leadership.”

#### OUR BOARD

**The Awareness Cambodia Board provides the strategic direction and professional support for our endeavours.**

This year we were delighted to welcome Greg Martin to the Board. With an educational background including senior management with TAFE Australia, past Board member of SCEA and a tireless worker who has provided invaluable support to our causes through years of volunteering on our impact teams, Greg brings a wealth of experience to our body corporate.

Tim James, who together with wife Trudy managed our Phnom Penh office for five years, will also be joining our Board in 2018. Tim’s experience in-country and in management will no doubt prove invaluable when it comes to our decision-making in the years ahead.

#### OUR STAFF

**Whether working in-country or in Australia, our staff are the backbone of our organisation.**

Trudy and Tim James have returned to Perth from our Central Office in Phnom Penh. In their stead, Michelle and Karl Kivits have moved to Cambodia to take up a supervisory role at Sunshine House and the English Second Language program. Also joining the Central Office team this year were Gaynor and Rhett Topliss, who will be overseeing Graduation House and handling administration for Operation Nightingale. Thanks to Annie Wilson (previous GH supervisor) for past services with Awareness Cambodia and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

We also welcomed Dr Simon Rohde, an ED specialist, to the Operation Nightingale team. Based in Queensland, Dr Simon is working with Dr Chenda in Cambodia to develop a fresh direction for the Operation Nightingale program in 2018.

## OUR PEOPLE

### OUR VOLUNTEERS

**Each year, groups of volunteers give of their time and talents to help make a difference on-site in Cambodia.**

The international medical team saw a doctor, six nurses, a women's health specialist and a dentist join our Cambodian team to conduct three remote rural mobile clinics in addition to clinics in Kompong Speu and treat some 600 patients over five days.

Sunshine House was once again the recipient of lots of attention from the maintenance teams. Under the leadership of Phil Dickson, Brenda and Kaming's house was renovated in mid-2017. The team raised all the funds for the project and put in the hard work to revamp the home. In 2018, the team has earmarked the education wing for an update.

The 2017 Impact Team undertook a major overhaul of the Sunshine House water supply and sewerage. It was also the first time that the team had members from Switzerland in the mix.



## OUR PROGRAMS

### Our Programs

“Education is at the heart of everything we do. We truly believe that education has the power to change lives.”

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT

### SUNSHINE HOUSE & HOUSE OF PROGRESS

The trusty old bus that takes the children from Sunshine House to school and back has been a little less trusty of late. The ageing bus has seen better days and is costing a lot in repairs. But that is soon to change. Thanks to the generosity of our donors a new bus is on the cards and we look forward to seeing the bus take pride of place in the Sunshine House driveway in 2018. Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the purchase possible.



In November, the West Coast Eagles returned to Sunshine House, much to the delight of the children. The players spent a night at Sunshine House where they put on a concert – and while they aren't likely to be auditioning for Australian Idol anytime soon, the kids absolutely loved their singing and dance efforts! The team displayed greater skill on the volleyball field and after the tournament a cup was presented to the triumphant team, once again Sunshine House.



## OUR PROGRAMS

“It is through education that Cambodia’s most vulnerable will be empowered and play a part in the future of their country.”

### GRADUATION HOUSE

We were again delighted to see a number of the young adults in our care graduate from vocational courses and we had two students attain degrees in English Literature. For those still studying at university and vocational levels, we share in the pride, so many have in being named top of their class, passing subjects when almost all of their class failed and securing academic postings against hundreds of their peers competing for the placements.

An MOU with First Ideal Recruitment is also seeing our House of Progress and Graduation House graduates receive career advice.

Continuing our march ever-forward, more medical and agricultural scholarship students will join the program in 2018. Our first agricultural scholarship students are about to graduate once they complete their theses and we extend our thanks to Dennis Purcell, who created the Tim Purcell Cambodia Scholarship Fund, with whom we partner to provide the agricultural scholarships, for his ongoing support.



## OUR PROGRAMS

“Education is a powerful and basic human right – it creates opportunities and gives hope for a brighter future.”

## EDUCATION

### ENGLISH SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) PROGRAM

The ESL program is going from strength to strength, with Awareness Cambodia providing English as Second Language in Primary Schools teachers at four schools. The Cambodian Government has announced they plan to join us in providing ESL training for students in years 4, 5 and 6.

Our leadership team in Phnom Penh is also continuing to develop the training structure for our enthusiastic provincial ESL Primary School teaching staff.



ACI's education programs are at work in a number of Kompong Speu schools and thousands of students reap the benefits.



## OUR PROGRAMS

### A CASE FOR CHANGE

Our Case for Change education project continues to support our education for all ethos. In July the team distributed nearly 700 backpacks filled with a year's worth of school supplies to two schools.

This year, one local school and three local businesses took part in the program. The Cambodian supporters were joined by a number of donors from Australia to help provide essential school supplies for children across Kompong Speu.



A reflection of strained financial times, sadly a couple of our major donors exited from the program this year. The loss of these donors will greatly impact the program in 2018 unless we can secure new supporters. Individuals, businesses, schools and community groups can all help keep this vital program going by joining a Case for Change. Each backpack filled with school supplies is only \$15, but the gift of education is priceless. If you can help out, please contact our Perth head office.



## OUR PROGRAMS

“Education can not only help make lives better, it can save them.”

### MEDICAL

**All year-round Operation Nightingale operates seven health clinics within the region of Kompong Speu, employing well-trained Cambodian doctors and medical staff.**

Three years ago, with the incomparable financial support of Wen Giving, Operation Nightingale initiated a **breast and cervical cancer screening** and education program. This was a brand-new concept for uneducated women in regional Cambodia.

After 2 1/2 years publicising in the community, Operation Nightingale has subsequently seen, tested and personally educated just under 1000 women in self-awareness for breast cancer along with cervical cancer screening.



Around 10 per cent of the women undergoing screening have returned positive results and the early intervention and screening program is truly helping to save lives.

In 2018, the next phase of the program is scheduled – providing HPV vaccinations. Our sincere thanks to Mei Wen for continuing to fund this vital program, and to Professor John Maloney for negotiating with pharmaceutical company GSK to reduce the vaccine costs.

Our CEO was invited to join the Cambodian Medical Alliance (CMA) Board at its inception. The CMA, a medical alumnus, was started by two of our senior Operational Nightingale doctors – Piseth and Reasey – in 2015. CMA membership is 2,345-strong and over the last 2 years they have seen more than 40,000 patients. At the end of 2016 it was announced that land and funding for an international-quality hospital and university had been donated to the group and an Australian university has agreed in-principle to a partnership in training the first intake of Cambodian nurses. The international medical team visit was again a huge success. Over five days, the team provided care for more than 600 Cambodians at remote clinics. Our two medical scholarship students also joined the team, getting some hands-on practical experience. Awareness Cambodia has continued to investigate and develop strategic partnerships with local health providers and has signed MOUs with Brien Holden Vision Institute and Cho Ray Hospital to ensure the children in our care receive the best possible health services.

## PAYING IT FORWARD

### “Chumrarn and Sokhour embody the wonderful concept of “paying it forward”.

After the death of their parents, each boy came to Sunshine House and made their way through our Child Development programs. Chumrarn became our first young man to graduate from university in 2014 as a civil engineer. Sokhour graduated as an architect in 2015. Today they are both married and starting families of their own. Although busy working in their chosen fields, each young man has made a commitment to repay Awareness Cambodia by helping us in our projects.



Chumrarn has been on-site at Sunshine House designing and implementing a new water and sewerage system and Sokhour is drafting up plans and designing the next phase of Sunshine House’s development.

We couldn’t be more proud of the young men and what they have achieved for themselves. The fact that they want to, but are not obligated to, give back is a testament to both the men themselves and the work of the Awareness Cambodia team to instill in them such a sense of gratitude and belief in the power of our work to change lives for the better!

### Do you want to make a donation?

We receive donations four ways

1. **Credit Card**
2. **Cheque**
3. **Direct Deposit** – contact Perth office for details [cambodia@awarecam.org.au](mailto:cambodia@awarecam.org.au) or phone +61 8 9370 1457 for details
4. **Paypal** – is available on our website [www.awarecam.org.au](http://www.awarecam.org.au)

# FOCUS...Operation Nightingale

**Each year, thousands of Cambodians receive primary medical care and health education thanks to Operation Nightingale.**

From humble beginnings in 2006 when we ran one clinic at Krang Skus operating one session a week, Operation Nightingale (ON) has gained increasing momentum. Today, under the leadership of ON Medical Director Dr Chenda, we have around 55 staff including doctors, nurses, midwives and pharmacists working at seven permanent health centres in partnership with the Provincial Health Department.

The medical team monitors and provides treatment for the 110+ staff and children in our Child Development programs.

Each month 14-16 clinics are conducted in Kompong Speu, including two clinics which are dedicated to women's health. Through these clinics, more than 3,500 villagers receive free year-round primary medical care and vital health education.



Along with medical care, patients at the health centres are educated about diet and physical exercise and other topical health matters. A number of older patients are also provided with reading glasses.

The breast and cervical cancer screening and education program continued throughout the year. In addition to screening, 280 women were provided with early intervention education. In 2018, the program will be augmented by the provision of HPV vaccinations for young women. Following the international medical team visit, ON is now working with a family planning specialist to determine appropriate contraceptives (IUDs) for patients and raising funds in Australia to train staff and supply the devices at the ON clinics.

Each year an additional 1,000 patients are seen at remote mobile clinics, for many these clinics are the only time they see a doctor. Our staff are joined at these clinics by the volunteer Australian medical professionals who come to Cambodia each year to provide additional care and treatment services and to mentor our local doctors and nurses.

In 2017, a doctor, six nurses, a women's health specialist and a dentist joined our Cambodian team of three doctors, three nurses, two pharmacists and seven 7th year medical students (who acted as translators) to work at our rural and remote clinics.

Over five days, the team ran three remote clinics – setting up in people's homes and paddocks – delivering first-aid and general check-ups. The other two days were spent in Kompong Speu at our health centres assisting with the regular clinical sessions. More than 600 patients were provided with medical care and education this year.

ON continues to support the medical scholarships program, with Dr Chenda mentoring the three students (who also volunteer at the ON health centres) and promoting the program to high school students. The team also supports students studying as doctors and nurses and runs training courses for midwives and female nurses on women's health matters. ON is also working with senior Australian nursing educators to introduce programs at the Russian hospital.

As 2017 drew to a close, some 3,750 patients had been treated as part of ON. Dr Chenda and Dr Simon Rohde are working together to guide the Operation Nightingale program in 2018 and beyond.



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## [www.awarecam.org.au](http://www.awarecam.org.au)



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*Global Development Group takes responsibility of the project according to OAGDS guidelines providing a governance role and assisting in the areas of planning, monitoring, evaluating and auditing to ensure the projects are carried out to OAGDS requirements. Tax deductible receipts for gifts over \$2 with a preference for these projects are issued by the Awareness Cambodia Overseas Aid Fund (ABN 15 815 273 527). If projects are overfunded, funds may be applied to other approved project activities.*