



# OVERVIEW

# 2018



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Each year when I look back on our programs and operations, I continue to be amazed at what we have been able to accomplish. Of course, our success is in no small part due to the incredible support and generosity of many – donors, sponsors, partners, volunteers and staff.

Much of what we are able to achieve in-country each year rests heavily on the work of our team at home. And in that respect we have been fortunate to partner with many far-sighted individuals and organisations which have generously given their finances, expertise and time to help us assist thousands of Cambodians. Without their efforts, and the many and significant supporters in business and the Australian community, our impact on the lives of Cambodia's vulnerable and disadvantaged simply wouldn't be possible.

Over 2018, we had the opportunity to build on significant progress made in 2017. Though financial conditions in Australia and internationally continue their downward trend, contributions have remained relatively stable.

As always, the year was peppered with many "TIC" ("This Is Cambodia") moments to which anyone who has experienced it first-hand or been regaled by my tales will be able to give a wry smile. Garments and textiles may be the nation's chief exports, but there's plenty of 'red tape' left at home!

On a serious note, health and education remain important challenges and development priorities for the Cambodian Government. We continue to work with various government departments to deliver essential health and education programs.

With the help of our supporters we are improving the lives of some of the country's most vulnerable. Our Child Development, Education and Medical programs continue to go from strength to strength and prove on a daily basis that change for the better really can happen.



Dr Gary Hewett OAM  
CEO & Founder

# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- 64 students and young adults supported in our Child Development programs
- 2 Agricultural scholarship students graduated
- Vocational training student becomes 57th student to graduate
- 3 new graduate student weddings
- 4 graduate students become parents
- 20 schools involved in our Education program
- 400 backpacks distributed through A Case for Change
- Approximately 35,000 patients attended 7 Operation Nightingale health centres
- Approximately 3,500 patients referred for medical consultation and treatment
- Significant new network NGO commenced assessment and surgery for women testing positive to cervical cancer
- Completion of an extra year in women's health and education service delivery
- 30 Australian and Cambodian medical personnel and translators on medical impact team
- Training Women's hygiene program and delivery hygiene packs to 500 women
- Our first 'family busy bee' was held at Sunshine House. Past and current students gave up their public holiday and headed to their childhood home to 'pay it forward'
- 1,000 Cambodians treated by international medical team volunteers
- Australian First Aid curriculum developed and adapted for delivery in the Cambodian context. Successful information and intensive hands-on training courses completed for 20 doctors, nurses and medical students in Phnom Penh
- A donor through our good friends - Sonshine Radio donated over 30 smart phones for use in Cambodia
- The annual Christmas Party (16th December 2018) held at Sunshine House was once again a huge success. Graduated students along with their children and partners, joined with their Awareness Cambodia family, to celebrate all things Christmas



*Gary and Kim Hewett at Sonshine Radio*



*Sunshine House's annual Christmas Party*

# OUR PEOPLE & PLACES



Those who share our vision and join with us to deliver our programs are the beating heart of our organisation. Whether they provide financial support, in-kind services, strategic direction or work tirelessly in-country, in the US and in Australia – our achievements are only possible because of them.

## 2018 AT A GLANCE

### AUSTRALIAN OFFICE

- Charmaine Taylor, after 5+ years of dedicated service in the Bayswater office, resigned due to ill-health
- Kim Hewett returned on short notice from Cambodia to pick up daily functions in the Bayswater office and oversee the employment of new staff members, Kathryn and Victoria
- Long Thach (Awareness Cambodia treasurer), Linett Shave and a host of regular volunteers continued to offer their time and services at the Bayswater office
- Kim, Renee, Greg and Pichenda expertly coordinated the maintenance and medical impact teams
- Steve Sonneman-Smith (Awareness Cambodia vice-president and accountant) continued to provide services in the Perth and Cambodia offices pro bono
- Stielow and Assoc. provide annual Australian auditor services pro bono
- Mills Wilson Communications offer pro bono Public Relations expertise

### CAMBODIAN OPERATIONS

- Phnom Penh Central Office personnel remained largely unchanged
- Kimna Khean (Financial Controller and Office Manager) and Srey Pov (Assistant Accountant) remain the backbone of the Central Office
- Pichenda Serey continues to blossom in her important Communications Coordinator role
- Supply of deep sewerage completed and road surface concreted at Phnom Penh office
- Modifications to Central Office front entrance completed
- Improvements made to the “Backstop” training centre with substantial modifications to leaking roof completed



## SUNSHINE HOUSE

- Nekru Chet, after 15 years in management, stepped down as manager but will continue to work on a casual/part-time basis maintaining her role as a mother figure
- Puttra was promoted from Graduation House project to the role of Sunshine House manager
- Greg Martin has relocated to Phnom Penh and is working with Nary and Puttra to develop significant improvements to the maintenance systems
- Phil Dickson raised the funds and oversaw the past renovation of Brenda and Kaming's house – and will update the education wing in the new year
- Dr Ken and Di Collins, David and Palma Phipps (Australia), Sheila, Lau, Su Re and Annie (Singapore) financed the new school bus which is finally on its way
- The 2018 annual Australian Impact Team (with 3 American recruits) overhauled the water and electricity supplies, painted, covered the water tank area and erected safety fences around the sewer drain



## GRADUATION HOUSE

- Rhett and Gaynor Topliss continue to work effectively and energetically in developing their staff and creating a suitable and safe learn environment for students
- Changes to layout made, additional computers in the computer lab provided, recreational space adapted
- Top-floor renovations to commence soon, thanks to receiving a grant from the Linden Family Foundation
- Dave and Palma Phipps raised funds for the roof modifications and ongoing maintenance through his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party celebrations
- Dennis Purcell from “The Tim Purcell Cambodia Scholarship Fund” made the education and graduation of each Agriculture student possible

## OPERATION NIGHTINGALE

- Gaynor Topliss joined Operation Nightingale team administration on part-time basis
- Dr Simon Rhode provided his time and expertise to the program free of charge
- Dr Chenda Lim continued her full-time oversight and dedication to patient needs
- Professor John Maloney provided continued assistance and his negotiation skills
- Symbion Pharmaceutical provided a significant quantity of pharmaceutical supplies
- Mei Wen and Wen Giving provided ongoing financial support to the program, in particular to our women's health initiatives

# KIDS CHAMPION

Emmanuel Onyedikachi became Awareness Cambodia's first Mixed Martial Arts Ambassador in May. Representing our students' cause ringside, "The Biafran Warrior" is also donating a portion of his purse to the program in-country. New to the sport in a professional capacity, Emmanuel's prize money might not be significant at this stage – but he won his first three bouts!

Our House of Progress and Graduation House students are also enjoying Emmanuel's weekly gym and self-defence training classes, which he is generously providing free of charge.



# MY DREAMS ARE ALIVE

El Laiseng is 31 years old and was born in Battambang Province. When asked about her background Laiseng explains, "I have 10 siblings; 6 sisters and 4 brothers. My father died when I was 8, (leaving) my mother to continue work with the family as farmers there. My mother is now 67. I am married. My husband's name is Sophea, 35. We have one daughter named Sophear Darliya, 10. Three of us live in Phnom Penh."

Laiseng started work with Awareness Cambodia as a nursing assistant in 2014, completing her Secondary Nursing Degree with additional support from her family. She then commenced her Bachelor Degree, but was unable to continue these studies as the family simply couldn't afford to keep up support.

Laiseng nevertheless continued to develop into a highly-valued member of Awareness Cambodia's Operation Nightingale team, travelling year-round into Kampong Speu Province for clinics and injecting her caring but proactive and bubbly personality into Awareness Cambodia's annual medical teams' endeavours. Working with Operation Nightingale has meant Laiseng has had ongoing access to Dr Chenda's supervision and mentoring, and she has developed friendships with senior Australian nurses. Last year during a casual discussion Laiseng's passion to continue learning and growing her capacity to make a difference in patients' health and wellbeing came up. It wasn't long before Awareness Cambodia stepped in – with some of its valued supporters agreeing to allocate time and pick up the additional costs to see Laiseng continue her Bachelor Degree. Laiseng was overwhelmed.

She said, "Since I started with Awareness Cambodia, I am being changed to another person with confidence. My dreams are alive. I am working towards them not because of my own self, but to (help) my Cambodian people. I would take this time to express my gratefulness to you Awareness Cambodia as well for giving me these opportunities to help my people." Laiseng is now in her final semester and will soon graduate as a nurse.



# OUR PROGRAMS



Our Child Development, Education and Medical programs take a holistic approach to supporting the vulnerable. All of our programs are underpinned by the belief that education has the power to change lives – and society as a whole – for the better. So whether it is supporting the education journey of a child in our care right through

to university, providing essential supplies and language skills for local primary school students or taking the time to provide healthcare and medical education to villagers – the emphasis remains on creating opportunity through education. Knowledge is power and education is the foundation for empowerment.

Throughout 2018 our in-country projects continued to evolve to meet the changing needs of those we set out to help. We have built on existing projects and introduced new initiatives, which are already making positive inroads. Never ones to rest on our laurels, we have new developments in the pipeline too!

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Within our Child Development program we provide care, shelter and education for infants and primary school-aged children in a safe, inclusive and culturally-appropriate setting (Sunshine House). As the children make their way through their education journey (House of Progress), we continue to support them right through to university (Graduation House).

### Our students – by the numbers

- **63** students are in our Child Developments programs
  - **49** children & young adults at Sunshine House, House of Progress and Graduation House
  - **4** Sunshine House scholarship students
  - **4** Agriculture scholarship students
  - **6** Medical scholarship students
- **57** students have successfully graduated from the program and are living in the community
- **10** university graduates
- **23** past students married with children
- **119** students have entered our program since 2000



## Sunshine House & House of Progress – 2018 in summary

- **49** students in the programs
- **4** Sunshine House scholarship students
- **4** Sunshine House students topped their class
- A brand new 2019 Hyundai 29 +1 seater bus is on its way to Sunshine House



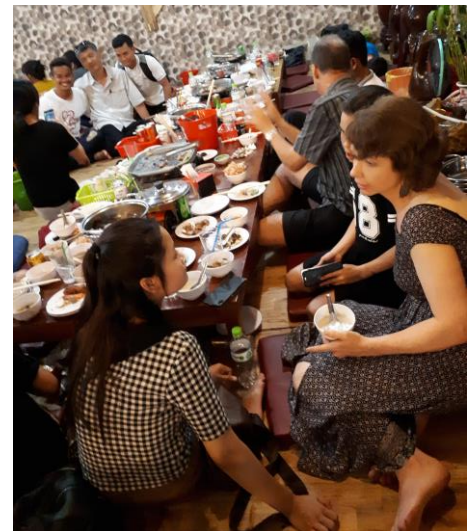
## Graduation House – 2018 in summary

- **20** students currently living at Graduation House
- A number of our university students were recognised top of their class and passed subjects when almost their entire class failed
- **2** of our 4th year Medical students received merit awards for being in top 3 in their class (of 66)
- **1** Agriculture student topped her class
- **5** Medical students joined the annual Australian medical team as translators
- **1** Medical student is preparing to enter speciality studies
- **2** Agricultural scholarship students graduated
- **1** vocational training student graduated
- **10** scholarship students (4 Agriculture, 6 Medical)
- **7** House of Progress students in years 11 and 12 relocated to Phnom Penh to complete their high school education at Westline School
- Man Up program introduced (recognising and addressing dysfunction)

## On reflection

*A recent reunion at Graduation House gave me opportunity to catch up with many of our past and recent graduates. It was a reminder that since our first student, Sok Chan, graduated with a degree in accountancy in 2012, 56 students have followed in her footsteps. Many Graduation House alumni are now married and about one-third have started families of their own. So much is already in motion to fulfil our original goal to fill the education vacuum left by Polpot and the Khmer Rouge.*

**Dr Gary Hewett**



## EDUCATION

Believing education is the path to empowerment, we run a range of education programs in the province – including ESL classes, A Case for Change (school supplies) and scholarship programs.

### 2018 at a glance

- **20** Kompong Speu schools participated in our Education program
- Thousands of school children in Kompong Speu and WA continued to reap the benefits of the education projects
- Provincial English Second Language teaching staff provided with training by Phnom Penh leadership team
- **8** schools participated in ESL program – including **4** new primary schools & **12** additional teachers
- Over **500** students in years 4, 5 & 6 received (1hr) English tuition per school day
- Cambodian Government's plan to join in providing ESL training to primary school years 4, 5 and 6 yet to materialise
- **400** backpacks distributed through Case for Change



**Awareness Cambodia**  
Rebuilding the Children of Cambodia

## Scholarship Opportunities

**AWARENESS CAMBODIA**

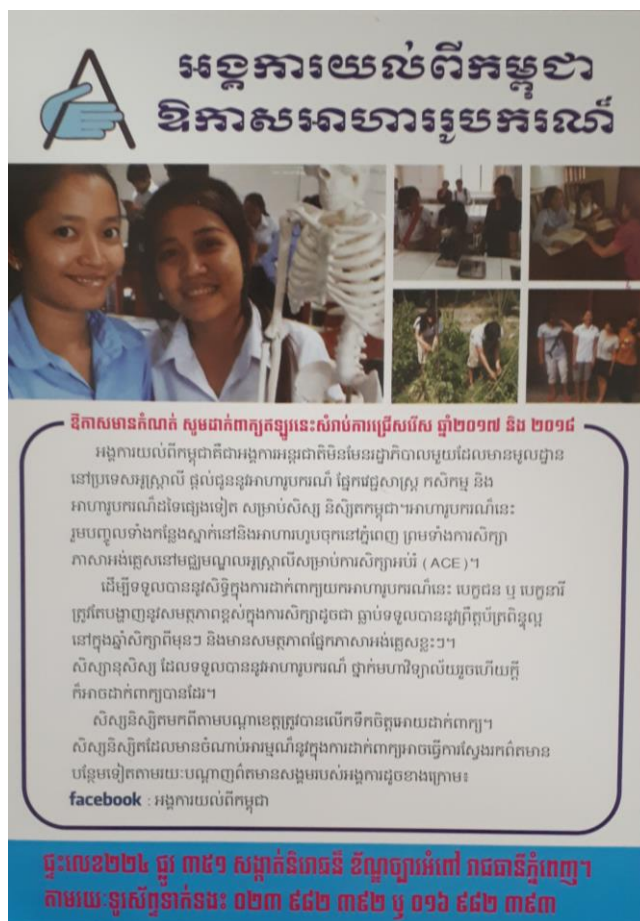
We are an Australian based international non government organization offering **MEDICAL, AGRICULTURE** and other scholarships for Cambodian students. Scholarships include Phnom Penh accommodation and English studies at Australian Centre for Education (ACE).

To be eligible, scholarship applicants must prove a high academic ability in all previous studies and be able to demonstrate English skills. Students with existing academic scholarships are eligible to apply.

**Students from the provinces are highly encouraged to apply.**

Students interested in applying can find further details by  
FACEBOOK: Awareness Cambodia  
OR contacting the **Awareness Cambodia** Central Office.  
Ph: 023 982 392 or 016 982 393

House #224, St 351, Sangkat Ntrowth, Khan Chbar Ampov, Phnom Penh  
Limited scholarship available: Apply now for 2017-2018 placement



**អង្គការយល់ពីកម្ពុជា**  
**ឱកាសសិក្សាស្រាវជ្រាវ**

**ឱកាសមានកំណត់ សូមដាក់ពាក្យឆាប់បំផុតសម្រាប់សិស្ស ឆ្នាំ២០១៧ និង ២០១៨**

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facebook : អង្គការយល់ពីកម្ពុជា

**ចុះលេខ២២២ ផ្លូវ ៣៥១ សង្កាត់និរោធនី ខណ្ឌច្បារអំពៅ រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ។**  
**តាមរយៈទូរស័ព្ទទំនាក់ទំនង: ០២៣ ៩៨២ ៣៩២ ឬ ០១៦ ៩៨២ ៣៩៣**

First of all, I would like to thank you for you being so generous and sponsoring my education so far. It truly means so much to me. You lifted my spirits tremendously!

Actually, I've successfully completed the final exam of year 12 last week with every subjects on A again. I'm so excited about it. I'll make you proud!!

And now I'm on two months vacations but still so busy with my upcoming specialised exam in the next few months. That would be the most complicated one, there are just only three to four doctors will be selected from the whole country, so it's not just my school exam, but it's really challenging!

Again, thank you so much for generosity.  
I'm so grateful.

With kinds regards, Lork.



Awareness Cambodia

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Email: [cambodia@awarecam.org.au](mailto:cambodia@awarecam.org.au) Website: [www.awarecam.org.au](http://www.awarecam.org.au)



## MEDICAL

Through Operation Nightingale we operate seven medical centres, treating thousands of villagers. We also run clinics, including women's health, in rural and remote areas – providing essential healthcare and education to the vulnerable.

### 2018 at a glance

- **7** medical centres
- **3** doctors, **45** nurses, **10** midwives, **7** allied health professionals
- **35,000** patients treated at the centres
- **10%** of patients referred to Operation Nightingale doctors for free medical consults, testing and pharmaceuticals
- **12-14** medical clinics per month
- **300** (av.) patients treated at clinics each month
- **2** women's health clinics per month
- **21** (av.) women accessed a women's health clinics each month
- **2,750** (av.) common pharmaceuticals dispensed per month
- **19,000+** medications dispensed during impact team
- **13** (av.) students in Child Development program treated by ON doctor each month
- nurse at Sunshine House mentored and trained using 'Where there is no Doctor' materials
- Breast and cervical screening program extended for another year
- NGOs supplying much-needed surgical follow-up to the screening process
- MOU with the ICA Foundation Board in Finland to introduce a new IUD program
- MOU with Brien Holden Vision Institute continued to provide eye testing and spectacles for the poor
- Australian First Aid curriculum was developed and adapted for delivery in the Cambodian context – first intensive was completed with **20** doctors, nurses and medical students
- **2** new rural medical scholarship students (1 as a result of MOU with the Cambodian Medical Alliance)
- **6** Medical scholarship students mentored
- **30** Australian and Cambodian medical personnel and translators treated approximately **1,000** patients over 5 days during annual international medical team visit
- For the first time, Dr Gary Hewett used his dentistry skills on the 2018 volunteer medical team
- In-principle agreement with Cho Ray hospital for nursing and medical staff remote nursing, intensive care and emergency medicine training
- Exciting news! Awareness Cambodia is partnering with Global Development Group (GDG) and can now accept tax creditable donations in New Zealand to GDGNZ. Further details in report)
- Proposed introduction of nursing scholarships for impoverished provincial students (in cooperation with World Bank and Cambodian Government)



## On reflection

*During the most recent visit we started by running an inaugural first aid course for the Cambodian non-clinical staff of Awareness Cambodia (both from Sunshine House and the secondary/tertiary facility in Phnom Penh). Course participants learnt the basics of dealing with such things as choking, the bleeding patient, the unconscious patient and CPR, and enthusiastically participated in all the practical skills training. They ended the day with an air of confidence that was palpable and were very appreciative of this wonderful learning opportunity.*

*This year all the clinics run by the impact team were in remote villages, some of which had never had a medical team visit previously. The clinics were set up in schools, the open-air, understoreys of some houses and even in a village pagoda. Most of the villages were 1-2 hours away from Sunshine House, where we were staying. After travelling out to the village we set up our makeshift pharmacy and the tables and chairs which become our consulting suites – 2-4 doctors around each table.*

*What I enjoy most about travelling to Cambodia is being part of such a wonderful team of people. The team leaders and Gary Hewett, the Awareness Cambodia Founder and CEO, are very inspirational. What has been achieved so far by Operation Nightingale is remarkable. The other aspect of the team that is very rewarding is working with the Cambodian medical students. They are hard-working, enthusiastic and intelligent and are keen to make a difference in their country.*

**Dr Heather Chalmers**



## Donations can now be made to support Awareness Cambodia within New Zealand.

**Exciting news!** Awareness Cambodia is partnering with Global Development Group (GDG) and can now accept tax creditable donations in New Zealand to GDGNZ.

To donate online towards Awareness Cambodia via GDG (NZ) please follow the simple steps below.

**Step 1.** Use the corresponding link below for either of our projects:

- **J515 Awareness Cambodia** [www.gdg.org.nz/GiveToJ515](http://www.gdg.org.nz/GiveToJ515)  
J675 Graduation House Cambodia [www.gdg.org.nz/GiveToJ675](http://www.gdg.org.nz/GiveToJ675)

Note: There's an option to set up a monthly recurring donation with a tick box.



Donate to Project: J515 - Awareness Cambodia

Amount 50 NZD

☐ Add an additional 2.5% to help offset PayPal fees

☐ Setup a monthly recurring donation\*

[Donate Now](#)

\*To change or cancel the frequency of your donation, log in to your PayPal Account. [Why use PayPal? Don't like PayPal?](#)

**# Important:** Please **ensure that the above project numbers are used**. It is how GDG NZ reconciles your donation to the correct Awareness Cambodia project.

**RECEIPTS:** An annual tax deductible receipt (min \$5) will be issued post EOFY (31<sup>st</sup> March)

**Step 2.** Please kindly email [cambodia@awarecam.org.au](mailto:cambodia@awarecam.org.au) and let us know that you have donated NZ\$(amount) via GDG NZ. We will ensure that your generous donation is directed to your preferred Awareness Cambodia project.



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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Awareness-Cambodia/212898692077451>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/awarenesscambodia/>

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



*Awareness Cambodia is proud to be a partner for Projects J515 and J675 with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian NGO approved by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to carry out quality humanitarian projects with approved partners and provide aid to relieve poverty and provide long term solutions.*

*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.*

# DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DONATION?

We receive donations four ways:

1. **Credit Card**

Call +61 8 9370 1457 and one of our staff will assist you in making a credit card donation

2. **Cheque**

3. **Direct Deposit**

**Account Name:** Awareness Cambodia Overseas Aid Fund

**Branch No. (BSB)** 016-363

**Account:** 1074-66951

**Bank:** ANZ

4. **PayPal**

[www.awarecam.org.au](http://www.awarecam.org.au) - see our website for more information

*All donations over \$2 within Australia are tax deductible*

