

# PARISH PROJECT 2010

*Working for Love, Hope & Justice*



*A Village Birth Attendants Refresher workshop at Sakarina Health Centre. ©Lisa McMurray/ABM2005*

## Health in Papua New Guinea

**Target: \$100,000 in 2010**

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Papua New Guinea's health status "is the lowest in the Pacific Region." An estimated 70 percent of the population lives on less than \$1 per day, and many live in scattered, rural communities with poor infrastructure, making the delivery of adequate healthcare very difficult. There is a shortage of rural health facilities and trained medical staff, as well as other social factors which are contributing to the decline in the health system.

Diseases like malaria, cholera, tuberculosis and measles are prevalent and remain the major cause of sickness and death in all age groups. The government estimates the infant mortality rate to be 75 per 1,000 live births, maternal mortality rates are almost 400 per 100,000 live births. Only 40 percent of the population has access to safe water. Life expectancy is only 59 years. HIV/AIDS is now a major epidemic. (World Bank:2007).

These are the many challenges faced by the Anglican Health Service (AHS). ABM continues to support the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea (ACPNG) funding healthcare projects. The aim is to improve medical facilities, staff skills, and increase public awareness of hygiene and health issues.

Last year, two nursing officers were employed by AHS. One was stationed at Movi Health Centre and provided information about sexual and reproductive health to 17,000 people. The other

nursing officer went to a school in Popondetta and taught 41 first and second year students. Both continue to provide services to rural communities. It is vital for more health clinics and aid posts to be established in these remote areas, as they are integral in the fight against diseases, especially HIV/AIDS across the country.

**What your gift can do:**

- \$2,000 is the cost of a village self-help centre
- \$3,000 will train a rural birth attendant

**Prayer Points:**

- Pray for the continued efforts of AHS in working to provide primary health services to isolated areas of PNG for those in greatest need
- Give thanks for the staff at AHS responsible for training the Community Health Workers
- Pray that the local communities are benefiting from increased health facilities and service

**Annabel Dulhunty - Papua New Guinea Program Coordinator**

Annabel was appointed “PNG Program Manager” in March 2009.

Annabel first became passionate about international community development when she went to volunteer at the Missionaries of Charity “Nirmal Hriday” (Home for the Dying and Destitute) in Kolkata at the age of nineteen. She is particularly interested in participatory community development, a rights based approach to development and effective gender and protection mainstreaming.

Prior to her work at ABM, Annabel held positions at the University of NSW, as a Lecturer in Social Development, as Education and Activities Manager with Matthew Talbot Homeless Services and with St Vincent de Paul in Kolkata, India and Concern Universal in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



**Papua New Guinea Facts:**



**Location:** Oceania, group of islands including the eastern half of the island of New Guinea between the Coral Sea and the South Pacific Ocean, east of Indonesia

**Population:** 6,057,263 (July 2009 est.)

**Languages:** Tok Pisin, English, and Hiri Motu are official languages; some 860 indigenous languages spoken (over one-tenth of the world’s total)

**Religions:** Roman Catholic 27%, Evangelical Lutheran 19.5%, United Church 11.5%, Seventh-Day Adventist 10%, Pentecostal 8.6%, Evangelical Alliance 5.2%, Anglican 3.2%, Baptist 2.5%, other Protestant 8.9%, Bahai 0.3%, indigenous beliefs and other 3.3% (2000 census)

**(CIA-The World Factbook)**



Anglican Board of Mission Australia Ltd. Locked Bag Q4005, Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230  
 Phone: 1300 302 663 or Sydney 9264 1021 Fax: (02) 9261 3560. Email us at: info@abm.asn.au Web: www.abmission.org

**OUR VISION** ABM wants to see people everywhere experience the wholeness of life God offers in Jesus Christ, and to this end support our partners as they participate in God’s mission.  
**OUR PROFILE** ABM is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia.  
 We work with Anglican Church Partners to develop and provide for the spiritual, social and material needs of people, both overseas and within Indigenous communities in Australia. We help the Anglican Church and the wider community realise and respond to the call for each of us to be a part of God’s hope for the world.