

**REPORT**  
**PRIMARY TRAUMA CARE (PTC) COURSES**  
**PTC INSTRUCTOR COURSE**  
**Port Vila, Vanuatu**  
**21-25 September 2009**

**Executive Summary**

1. *What is the problem?*

Trauma is a major cause of death and disability in many developing countries, including Vanuatu. The Primary Trauma Care course was developed to train health care workers to effectively and systematically manage trauma patients. PTC courses have been held in many parts of the Pacific region but, until now, no courses had been held in Vanuatu.

2. *What did we do?*

A 2-day PTC course and one-day PTC Instructor Course were held in Port Vila. These courses were immediately followed by a second 2-day course organised and taught by the newly trained local instructors. 25 people attended the first 2-day course, 10 attended the instructor course, and 18 attended the second 2-day course. The aim of these courses was to teach trauma management knowledge and skills to course participants and also to train and develop the skills of local PTC instructors.

3. *What happens next?*

There is now a strong group of local PTC instructors who have the equipment, knowledge and skills to run future PTC courses in Vanuatu. A PTC committee has been formed and plans are under way to hold a follow-up course in early 2010.

4. *What help will be needed?*

Both AusAID (through the Pacific Islands Project) and the Ministry of Health were very generous in their support of these courses. PTC courses are relatively cheap to run but the future sustainability of PTC in Vanuatu will depend on the enthusiasm of the local instructors and the ongoing support of the Ministry of Health. In addition, PIP / AusAID can help by providing targeted assistance, eg, printing costs, equipment costs if required, some travel costs.

**Introduction**

Vanuatu is situated in the southwest Pacific and comprises a chain of 83 islands spread over a large area of ocean. It has a population of about 220,000. The capital is Port Vila, population 40,000. The country's main hospital is Vila Central Hospital.

Statistics are unavailable but most trauma deaths and disability in Vanuatu are caused by road traffic crashes and burns. Factors contributing to car crash injuries

are alcohol use, lack of seatbelt use, vehicle overcrowding and poor vehicle maintenance. Burns are caused by open cooking fires.

The Primary Trauma Care course was developed with the backing of the WHO to train health care providers to prioritise and treat severely injured patients quickly and systematically, thereby reducing death and disability. The course is specifically designed for health care providers working in developing countries and takes into account the resource shortages in these countries. The very first PTC course was run in Fiji in 1997 with the backing of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists, but PTC is now being taught in many parts of the world, including many countries in Africa, South America and Asia.

Apart from teaching a system for managing trauma patients, PTC has a number of other benefits:

- PTC principles can be applied to non-trauma patients.
- The course teaches teamwork and communication between doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers.
- The course develops teaching skills and encourages ownership by local healthcare workers.

### **Local Organisers**

Dr Willie Tokon played a vital role in organising the courses, including venue, printing, liaison with the Ministry of Health, and selection of participants.

Dr Richard Leona also assisted with pre-course organisation and played a leading role during the second 2-day course.

### **Course Instructors for First 2-Day Course**

(and Instructor Course\*)

1. Dr Willie Tokon\*  
(Local organiser)  
Anaesthetist and Medical Services Manager, VCH
2. Dr Wayne Morriss\*  
(Overseas organiser)  
Anaesthetist, Christchurch, New Zealand
3. Dr Sereima Bale\*  
Anaesthetist and Senior Lecturer  
Fiji School of Medicine, Suva, Fiji
4. Dr Suzi Nou\*  
Anaesthetist and Senior Lecturer  
Fiji School of Medicine, Suva, Fiji
5. Dr Richard Leona  
General Surgeon, VCH
6. Dr Chris Bowden\*  
Anaesthetist, Frankston, Victoria, Australia

7. Dr Matthew Howes  
Anaesthetist, VCH

Dr Luke Nasedra (Anaesthetist, Labasa, Fiji) and Dr Basil Leodoro (Surgical Registrar, Suva, Fiji) arrived on 22 September and taught on the second day and also the Instructor Course.

### **Instructors for Second 2-Day Course**

1. Dr Richard Leona  
Surgeon, VCH
2. Dr Andy Ilo  
Anaesthetic Registrar
3. Dr Tildena Mandavah  
Anaesthetic Registrar
4. Dr Samuel Kemuel  
Surgical Registrar, VCH
5. Dr Boniface Damutalau  
ObGyn Registrar, VCH
6. Elani Namel  
Nurse Anaesthetist, VCH
7. Honore Maurice  
Nursing Services Manager, VCH

### **Course Participants**

See Appendices 1-3

25 people attended both days of the first course. All came from Port Vila. The group included 11 nurses and 8 doctors.

10 people attended the instructor course.

18 people attended the second 2-day course. 2 doctors flew down from Santo at their own expense to attend the course. This group included 5 nurses, 5 doctors and three medical students.

### **Course Programmes**

See Appendices 4-6.

Overall, the timetables worked well, although some of the skill stations and scenarios felt rushed. Timekeeping was excellent during the second 2-day course!

Most teaching was done in Bislama during the second 2-day course.

## Venue, Presentation, Catering

All courses were held at the Presbyterian Korean Mission Centre near Vila Central Hospital. This was excellent venue with fan cooling and outside covered areas (although a number of participants commented on not enough room for skills teaching and scenarios). Dr Tokon provided a data projector and small laptop computer.

Catering was arranged by Dr Tokon. This also was excellent, with not too much food and plenty of water!

## Teaching Materials

Dr Tokon organised printing of all manuals in Port Vila. The manuals were of good quality and printing costs were met by the Ministry of Health.

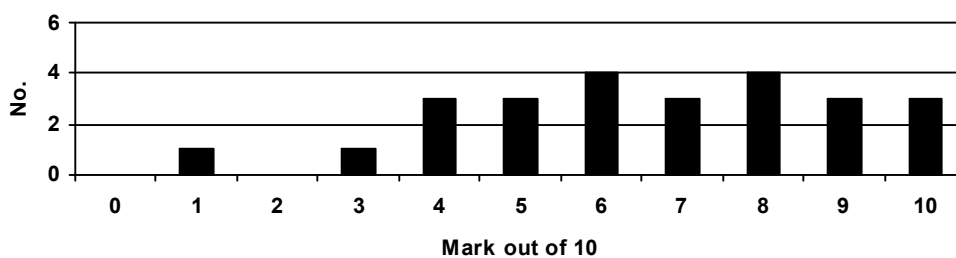
Trial slides developed during the regional meeting in Lautoka were used for both 2-day courses. Feedback regarding these slides was very positive. A new presentation on disaster management was also used.

Copies of all teaching materials, manuals and other documents were copied and CDs were given to all new instructors.

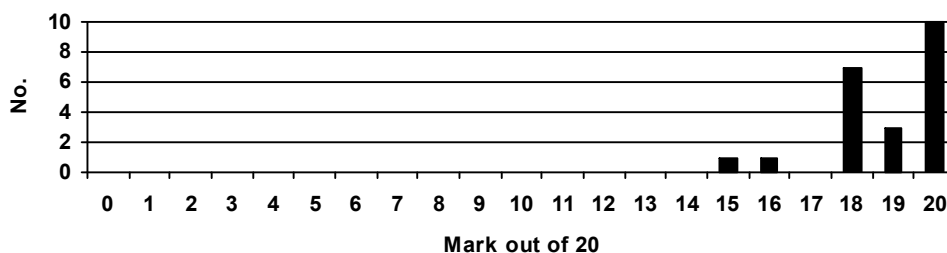
## MCQs

MCQs were asked at the beginning and end of each course. Scores improved markedly for each course as demonstrated by the rightward shift of the graphs.

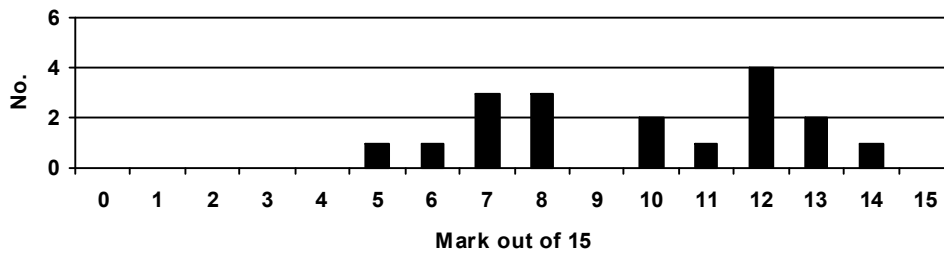
First 2-Day Course, Pre-Test (n=25)



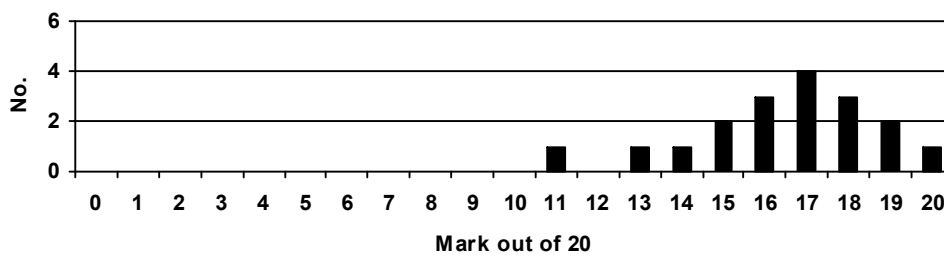
First 2-Day Course, Post-Test (n=22)



**Second 2-Day Course, Pre-Test (n=18)**



**Second 2-Day Course, Post-Test (n=18)**



### **Publicity / Liaison**

Ms Kendra Drousseau, Senior Program Officer with AusAID in Port Vila attended the opening of the second 2-day course. She presented the airway manikin to Drs Willie Tokon and Richard Leona on behalf of the Pacific Island Project / AusAID.

Mr Maurice Amos, Acting Director, Southern Healthcare Group, Ministry of Health, attended the closing of the second 2-day course and helped present participant and instructor certificates.

Dr Tokon contacted local media but they did not turn up.

### **Participant Feedback**

Overall, participant feedback was very positive for all three courses. Many participants thanked the instructors and there were good comments about the content of the lectures and the interactive sessions. A number of people commented on the success of using spoken Bislama to compliment the English content of the slides.

Several participants asked for the course to be held over 3-5 days. A few people wanted more or different food. Several stated that the scenarios had been rushed.

Several participants on the second 2-day course commented on the need for more space and more equipment.

Information from feedback forms is presented in Appendix 7.

## **Financial**

The courses were very generously supported by AusAID through the Pacific Island Project (PIP), and the Vanuatu Ministry of Health.

PIP met the costs of the overseas instructors, some catering costs, and also purchased an airway manikin. The Pacific Society of Anaesthetists Refresher Course is being held on 28 September-2 October, so some transport costs were spread between both courses.

The Ministry of Health provided funding for printing costs, catering and venue hire.

## **Success and Relevance of the Visit**

The main objectives of the visit were:

- To teach PTC concepts and skills to relevant health providers
- To give a group of local instructors the knowledge and skills to run more PTC courses in the future.

We were able to teach PTC concepts and skills to relevant health providers in both 2-day courses.

There was a good mix of healthcare providers during both 2-day courses. A number of staff were from the OPD at Vila Central Hospital; this is important because of their front-line role in managing trauma patients.

The instructor course and subsequent 2-day course were very successful. The newly trained instructors were extremely well organised, very enthusiastic and were very effective teachers. They ran the course with almost no assistance from the external instructors.

## **Plans for the Future**

There are two main challenges:

- For PTC instructors and participants to apply PTC principles to the management of patients on a day-to-day basis.
- For PTC instructors to run more PTC courses.

To do this, they will need ongoing support from senior clinicians, the Ministry of Health and possibly targeted assistance from the Pacific Island Project.

At the end of the Instructor Course, the participants formed a PTC committee, to be chaired by Dr Richard Leona. The committee has already decided to a follow-up course in early 2010 and to do regular courses for nursing students. It is vital that Dr Leona and his team discuss with the MOH about future modest funding requirements for regular PTC courses.

## **Acknowledgements**

Special thanks to Dr Willie Tokon for doing all the groundwork, and to Dr Richard Leona and the rest of the team of new instructors for doing such a great job. Thanks

very much to the other overseas instructors, Drs Sereima Bale, Luke Nasedra, Basil Leodoro, Suzi Nou and Chris Bowden.

Thanks to the Vanuatu Ministry of Health for its support.

Thanks also to Lito de Silva and the team at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, and to AusAID for its continuing financial support for PTC in the Pacific region.

**Dr Wayne Morriss**  
**PTC Regional Coordinator**

**11 October 2009**



**Instructors and Participants, First 2-Day Course**



**Dr Samuel Kemuel, Scenario Teaching**



**Dr Richard Leona**





**Ms Kendra Drousseau presenting “Airway Larry” to Dr Willie Tokon**



**Mr Maurice Amos, Drs Wayne Morriss, Chris Bowden, Sereima Bale, Luke Nasedra at Closing Ceremony**

## **Appendix 1: Participants, First 2-Day Course**

(\*also helped with instructing)

1. Dorothy Namel	Sister, Theatre, VCH
2. Blaise Batrary	Junior R/N, OPD, VCH
3. Rhodney Tabi	Junior R/N, OPD, VCH
4. Lina Virameme Olul	R/N, Theatre
5. Roslinda Omawa	R/N, OPD
6. Willie Reuben	R/N, OPD
7. Gilles Sutherland Tavoava	Junior R/N, Paediatrics
8. Saen Fanai	R/N, OPD
9. Rosemary Sahe	Senior R/N, Theatre
10. Honore Maurice	Nursing Services Manger, VCH
11. Rosaria Maurice	Vanuatu College of Nursing Education
12. Elani Namel	Nurse Anaesthetist, VCH
13. Annie Tamata	Physiotherapist, VCH
14. Elisabeth Rubin	Visiting Medical Student, Darwin
15. William Perry	Visiting Medical Student, Christchurch
16. Nelson Tanghwa	Dentist
17. Maine Rezel	Dentist
18. Dr Tildena Mandavah	Anaesthetic Registrar (currently at FSM)
19. Dr Andy Ilo	Anaesthetic Registrar (currently at FSM)
20. Dr Samuel Kemuel	Junior Surgical Registrar, VCH
21. Dr Robinson Toukone	Intern, GOPD, VCH
22. Dr Boniface Damutalau	ObGyn Registrar, VCH
23. Dr Griffith Harrison	Physician, VCH
24. Dr Rosemary (Day 1)	Paediatric Registrar, VCH
25. Dr Huang Liya (Day 1)	Anaesthetist, VCH (China)
26. Dr Richard W Leona*	Surgeon, VCH
27. Dr Matthew Howes*	Anaesthetist, VCH (Australia)

## **Appendix 2: Participants, Instructor Course**

1. Dr Richard W Leona	Surgeon, VCH
2. Dr Andy Ilo	Anaesthetic Registrar (currently at FSM)
3. Dr Tildena Mandavah	Anaesthetic Registrar (currently at FSM)
4. Dr Matthew Howes	Anaesthetist, VCH
5. Dr Samuel Kemuel	Surgical Registrar, VCH
6. Dr Griffith Harrison	Physician, VCH
7. Dr Boniface Damutalau	ObGyn Registrar, VCH
8. Elani Namel	Nurse Anaesthetist, VCH
9. Willie Reuben	R/N, OPD
10. Honore Maurice	Nursing Services Manager, VCH

## Appendix 1: Participants, Second 2-Day Course

1. Dr Wilma Luan	MO, Northern District Hospital
2. Dr Thyna Orelly	MO, Northern District Hospital
3. Dr Robert Vocor	Medical Intern, VCH
4. Dr Crystal Garae	Junior Medical Registrar, VCH
5. Dr Graham Patas	Medical Intern, VCH
6. Michel Kalotiti	Anaesthetic Nurse
7. Alex Hofer	Medical Student
8. Melissa Fry	Medical Student
9. Roderick Mera	Medical Student
10. Jocelyn Phatu	R/N
11. Jeffery Samana	R/N
12. Jean Noel	R/N
13. Erick Jacob	R/N
14. Leiniaru Thatwin	R/N
15. Leisong Lagoiala	R/N
16. Sayoko Yamaguchi	JOCV
17. Albert Kaiapam	Physiotherapist
18. Leitare Raubani	Physiotherapist



Instructors and Participants, Second 2-Day Course

## Appendix 4: PTC 2-Day Course, Port Vila, Vanuatu

21-22 September 2009

### DAY 1

0900-1000	Introduction Local Trauma Perspective MCQs	Willie / Wayne Richard
1000-1030	ABCDE, Primary Survey	Suzi
1030-1100	<i>Morning tea</i>	
1100-1130	Airway and Breathing	Sereima
1130-1200	Circulation	Richard
1200-1300	Skill Stations	Airway 1 Airway 2 Cervical Spine Chest Drain
		Suzi Sereima Chris Richard
1300-1345	<i>LUNCH</i>	
1345-1415	Demonstration Scenarios	All
1415-1530	Scenarios (four)	All
1530-1545	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>	
1545-1615	Secondary survey	Chris
1615-1645	Chest Trauma	Richard
1645-1700	Day 1 Summary	Willie / Wayne

### DAY 2

0830-0900	Abdominal and Pelvic Injuries	Richard
0900-0930	Head and Spinal Injuries	Wayne
0930-1000	Paediatric and Obstetric Trauma	Suzi
1000-1030	<i>Morning Tea</i>	
1030-1100	Burns	Chris
1100-1215	Workshops	Analgesia Transportation Paediatrics Neuro assessment
		Sereima Willie / Richard Suzi Chris
1215-1300	<i>LUNCH</i>	
1300-1400	Disaster Management	Honore / Wayne
1400-1515	Scenarios	All
1515-1530	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
1530-1615	MCQs and discussion	All
1615-1630	Feedback, close	Willie / Wayne

## Appendix 5: PTC Instructors' Course, Port Vila, Vanuatu

23 September 2009

### Session 1: Introduction and Teaching Basics

0830-0840	10 mins	Introduction	Wayne
0840-0855	15 mins	PTC in Fiji	Sereima
0855-0910	15 mins	How adults learn	Luke
0910-0925	15 mins	Asking questions	Basil
0925-0945	20 mins	Feedback	Chris

0945-1015 *Break*

### Session 2: How to Give Presentations and Workshops

1015-1035	20 mins	General introduction	Suzi
1035-1055	20 mins	Giving a lecture	Richard
1055-1115	20 mins	Running a discussion group	Luke

1115-1215	60 mins	Workshops
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lecture</li><li>• Discussion group</li></ul>

Divide into two groups, 30 mins each workshop

1215-1315 *Lunch*

### Session 3: How to Give Presentations and Workshops

1315-1335	20 mins	Teaching a skill	Basil
1335-1400	25 mins	Running a scenario	Wayne

1400-1500	60 mins	Workshops
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skill</li><li>• Scenario</li></ul>

1500-1530 *Break*

### Session 4: How to Run a PTC Course

1530-1700	90 mins	Discussion of issues	All
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Language</li><li>• Personnel</li><li>• Equipment</li><li>• Paperwork</li></ul>	

Planning for 2-day course

The future of PTC in Vanuatu

Course evaluation

## Appendix 6: PTC 2-Day Course, Port Vila, Vanuatu

24-25 September 2009

### DAY 1

0830-1000	Introduction Local Trauma Perspective MCQs	Richard Samuel Basil
1000-1030	ABCDE, Primary Survey	Andy
1030-1100	<i>Morning tea</i>	
1100-1130 1130-1200	Airway and Breathing Circulation	Tildena Boniface
1200-1300	Skill Stations            Airway 1 Airway 2 Cervical Spine Chest Drain	Elani Honore Willie Samuel
1300-1345	<i>LUNCH</i>	
1345-1415	Demonstration Scenarios	All
1415-1530	Scenarios (four)	All
1530-1545	<i>Afternoon Tea</i>	
1545-1615 1615-1645 1645-1700	Secondary survey Chest Trauma Day 1 Summary	Andy Basil Richard

### DAY 2

0830-0900 0900-0930 0930-1000	Abdominal and Pelvic Injuries Head and Spinal Injuries Paediatric and Obstetric Trauma	Basil Elani Tildena
1000-1030	<i>Morning Tea</i>	
1030-1100	Burns	Boniface
1100-1215	Workshops    Analgesia Transportation Paediatrics Neuro assessment	Samuel / Andy Honore / Tildena Elani / Basil Griffith / Boniface
1215-1300	<i>LUNCH</i>	
1300-1400	Disaster Management	Honore / Richard
1400-1515	Scenarios	All
1515-1530	<i>Afternoon tea</i>	
1530-1615	MCQs and discussion	All
1615-1630	Feedback, close	Richard

## **Appendix 7: Analysis of Participant Feedback**

### *First 2-Day Course*

Forms not available at the time of writing this report but were read at the end of the course. Overall, feedback was very positive and constructive. A couple of comments about time limitation and the need for second teaching manikin.

### *Instructor Course*

9 forms received.

What went well?

- Many positive comments about the instructors and short lectures
- Practical sessions, interactive
- Small group

What didn't go so well?

- Timing / not enough time (5)
- Noise outside (roadworks)

Change?

- More time for practical sessions (5)
- Workshop outside Vila (fewer distractions)

### *Second 2-Day Course*

18 forms received.

What went well?

- "Save life just by ABC"
- Disaster management
- Interactive / scenarios
- Food "keeps participants together".
- Relationship between doctors and nurses
- Easy to understand

What didn't go so well?

- Nil (7)
- Not enough time (5)
- Small space for scenarios (4)

Change?

- More space and time (several comments)
- Another manikin
- Need a refresher course
- PTC courses every 6-12 months
- Handouts for participants (3)
- "Graduation party"