

VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Consultant Anaesthetist
Country	Vanuatu
Location of Partner Organisation	Luganville, Santo
Partner Organisation	Northern Provincial Hospital
Duration	6 Months (with option to extend)
Sustainable Development Goals	



41680

1. Partner organisation overview

The Northern Provincial Hospital (NPH) based in Luganville on the island of Espiritu Santo (Santo) is the second largest hospital in Vanuatu with just over 100 beds. It serves as the main referral centre for the Northern provinces namely Malampa, Torba and Penama. As such it has a significant catchment area and is the main referral centre for emergencies within the Luganville Municipality and Sanma Province. NPH provides paediatric, general medical, general surgical, obstetric/gynaecological services as well as a very busy out-patient and Emergency Department.

2. Assignment overview

Currently there are four operating theatres in the country, with two in Port Vila and two at NPH. There is currently no Consultant Anaesthetist based in at NPH, so the two operating theatres are not fully utilized. This has been identified as an area of great need by the senior leadership team at NPH over the past years.

The Anaesthetic Department is currently manned by nurses who have undergone anaesthetic training in known medical schools within the Pacific. These trained nurse anaesthetic officers, known as Assistant Scientific Officers (ASO) work with the surgeons doing routine hospital cases, as well as emergency cases. The case load at the operating theatre includes general surgery, obstetrics & gynaecology, oral & maxillofacial and ophthalmology. Surgical cases that are beyond the capacity of the ASO are referred to Vila Central Hospital. There is a Consultant Surgeon at the hospital, thus the volunteer is greatly needed to utilise their skills.

In addition to a service provision role, the volunteer will play an important role in capacity building. This would be achieved by mentoring and education of the local ASO and Medical Officers, as well as supporting the professional development of the nursing staff based in the theatre.

3. Goal/outcomes/outputs

Goal

To provide safe, high-quality and effective anaesthesiology care to all people using the NPH theatre services. In the long term the ongoing benefits would include improved



departmental processes/systems and improved anaesthesia skills and knowledge amongst the NPH anaesthetic team and junior doctors.

Outcome 1

Safe and effective anaesthetic care to all surgical patients seen with ultimate goal of improved patient outcomes

- A local Medical Officer is assigned to the volunteer for the duration of the assignment
- Provide professional and peer mentoring of local trainees
- Work with the Medical Officer to develop clinical protocols for anaesthesiology service
- Building capacity of NPH anaesthetic team including Medical Officers in anaesthesiology services and junior doctors and any anaesthetic trainees

Outcome 2

Improved capacity of NPH Anaesthetic team to deliver safe and effective anaesthetic care

- Provide continuing medical education of anaesthetic team and hospital staff
- Teaching and training anaesthetic team and Medical Officers on importance of pre-anaesthetic checks; and multidisciplinary patient care
- Teaching and training of anaesthetic team staff on use of intravenous, local, caudal or spinal methods to administer sedation or pain medications during surgical and other medical procedures.
- Teaching and supervising of anaesthetic team to supervise and monitor pain medications before, during and after surgery; offset adverse complications or reactions; document the amount and type of anaesthesia; observing the patient condition throughout the procedures
- Mentoring and upskilling of anaesthetic team and Medical Officers on how to provide and sustain airway management and life support in emergency surgery
- Teaching and training anaesthetic team and Medical Officers including nursing staff on monitoring post-surgery and determine when they are stabilized enough to be moved to another room or be discharged
- Teaching and training anaesthetic team on educating patients and families of post-procedure care and possible complications
- Work with local staff to develop management systems for anaesthetic services and coordinate with other professionals to formulate procedures and plans for patient care
- Work with local staff to develop an assessment tool to evaluate the anaesthetic team competency levels
- Alongside local staff develop procedure manuals or Standard Operating Procedures for anaesthetic staff on anaesthesia scenarios

Outcome 3

Ensure all people are treated equally and fairly, irrespective of their gender, race, age, or disability

- Alongside local staff in the anaesthetic team, treat all patients requiring NPH anaesthesiology services
- Ensure local staff provide airway assistance and support for critically unwell patients in the ED
- Be available to support the inter-island air transport of critically unwell patients that require airway or ventilator support
- Work with local staff to implement, document and imbed disability inclusion strategies
- Work with local staff to implement, document and imbed child safeguarding strategies

4. Reporting and working relationships and capacity building



The volunteer will work with local staff to ensure all patients are appropriately examined and prepped for the operating theatre, and from the theatre back to the ward. They will provide professional and peer support for the local anaesthetic team and the assigned Medical Officer, junior doctors and anaesthetic trainees at NPH. This can include assistance with exam preparations, research support and clinical skills. They will also provide clinical anaesthesiology teaching of students rotating in the hospital operating theatre as directed by the Medical & Dental Services Manager. As part of the NPH staff they will be expected to participate in hospital clinical education, quality improvement and team building.

The volunteer will report directly to Dr. Andy Ilo, Medical Superintendent and will be accountable to Dr. Mark Kalpukai, Medical & Dental Services. On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will predominately work with the NPH Anaesthetic team and the Medical Officer assigned to the Anaesthesiologist.

The volunteer and Northern Provincial Hospital will have an ongoing relationship with the VSA Programme Manager in terms of assignment monitoring, reporting, professional advice and personal support.

As needs on the ground may change over time, the volunteer is encouraged to review and update the Assignment Description on arrival in consultation with the partner organisation and VSA Programme Manager. By their very nature, development situations can involve significant change, so it is advisable that the volunteer periodically review and reflect on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.

5. Selection criteria/position requirements

Person specifications (professional)

Essential

- Fellowship in Anaesthesiology
- Extensive work experience in the field of anaesthesiology
- Teaching and mentoring skills
- Willing to apply for Medical Council approval in Vanuatu (paid for and organised by NPH) and a certificate of good standing from the Medical Council in NZ (MCNZ)

Desirable

- Experience or knowledge of ultrasound and local /regional anaesthesia
- Experience working in rural and remote settings with significant resource constraints
- Work or travel experiences within developing countries particularly the Pacific

Personal specification (personal)

Essential

- Strong communication skills to be able to communicate with both the children and their parents
- Clear understanding of diverse cultures
- Problem-solving abilities
- Team player
- Open-minded; friendly; kind; dedicated, hard-working.
- Resilience



- Tolerance
- Good work life balance and well-being management

Desirable

- Willing to learn Bislama

6. VSA Essential Attributes

- Commitment to volunteering, to VSA and to the partner organisation
- Cross cultural awareness
- Adaptability and a willingness to approach change or newness positively
- Able to form good relationships, both personally and professionally, with work colleagues and in the community
- Resilience and an ability to manage setbacks
- Initiative and resourcefulness
- An ability to facilitate learning through skills exchange

7. Country Context

For more information about Vanuatu see <https://vsa.org.nz/about-vsa/countryregion/vanuatu/>

Additional information

Residency status

VSA volunteers must be New Zealand citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status, and currently living in NZ.

Pre-departure briefing

As part of the volunteer's contract, successful candidates will be required to take part in a pre-departure briefing course run by VSA in Wellington and complete all required pre-reading.

Final appointment

Final appointment will be subject to satisfactory medical and immigration clearances (costs covered by VSA), partner organisation acceptance, and successful completion of the pre-departure briefing course.

Family status

VSA supports partners to accompany volunteers on assignments of six months or longer. However volunteers with accompanying dependents will not be considered for this assignment.

Fundraising

Volunteers are encouraged to fundraise at least \$1000 with the support of VSA's fundraising team. Accompanying partners are encouraged to raise the same amount. All funds raised will help VSA keep its programmes in action and support future volunteers.

Vaccination requirements

Potential volunteers are advised that VSA's insurers require volunteers to be inoculated, prior to departure, in accordance with the instructions of VSA's medical adviser. VSA covers the cost of any required vaccinations.



Children's Act

While on assignment, VSA volunteers may be required to work with children and/or may choose to participate in informal activities in their own time that involve interactions with children (such as coaching teams or teaching English). VSA is committed to the protection of vulnerable children and adults, which also includes meeting our commitment under the Children's Act 2014.

The information requested during the application process is necessary to assist VSA to determine applicant suitability to work and/or interact regularly with children, and is part of a series of pre-selection checks undertaken on all applicants for VSA assignments.

Volunteer package

The volunteer's package includes the following:

Reimbursements and grants

1. Volunteers will receive an establishment grant of NZ\$375 to help them set up in their country of assignment. For volunteers with an accompanying partner (whether or not that partner is also a VSA volunteer), VSA will pay an establishment grant of NZ\$550 per couple.
2. A resettlement grant of NZ\$200 will be paid for each month the volunteer is on assignment. This is payable on completion of the assignment.
3. The volunteer will receive a monthly living allowance of 107,580VUV

Accommodation

Basic, comfortable furnished accommodation will be sourced by VSA. In some circumstances volunteers may be asked to share accommodation.

Airfares and baggage allowance

VSA will provide the volunteer with economy airfares to and from New Zealand for their assignment plus a baggage allowance.

Insurance

VSA will provide travel insurance to cover baggage and personal property, and non-routine medical expenses for the duration of the assignment. Further details of the insurance cover will be provided during the volunteer pre-departure briefing.

Utilities

VSA will reimburse volunteers reasonable expenses for household utilities while on assignment.

Final terms and conditions relating to the specific volunteer assignment will be confirmed in a personalised volunteer contract.

