

LIFEBOX ANZ

REPORT 2017



Lifebox was established in 2011 to provide pulse oximeters to the estimated 79,000 operating theatres globally that did not have access to this life-saving device. Since then Lifebox has evolved to become one of the leaders in promoting safer surgery and anaesthesia throughout the world. Since 2011, more than 15,000 Lifebox pulse oximeters have been distributed to over 3000 hospitals, and more than 5,000 health workers have been trained in how to use them effectively.

A pulse oximeter is the most important monitoring tool in modern anaesthesia practice. It is a non-invasive medical device that checks the level of oxygen in a patient's bloodstream and sounds an alarm as soon as it detects the slightest unsafe change. A functioning pulse oximeter is the only piece of equipment listed on the World Health Organisation (WHO) Surgical Safety Checklist, an intervention proven to reduce surgical complications and mortality by more than 40 per cent.

Lifebox Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) was established in 2015 as a partnership between Lifebox, Interplast Australia and New Zealand, the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, the Australian Society of Anaesthetists (ASA), and the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists.

Lifebox ANZ works with hospitals in the Asia Pacific to introduce oximeters into clinical practice. This is not just through donations of oximeters – it also involves educating health workers in the use of oximeters and improving surgical safety by introduction of the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist. In 2016-17, Interplast coordinated oximeter donation and education in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar and Bhutan. Planning for our ongoing project in Mongolia continued and planning commenced for a program in Bangladesh.

HIGHLIGHTS

MYANMAR

In 2017, the Myanmar Society of Anaesthesiologists coordinated the donation of 50 oximeters to 15 hospitals throughout Myanmar. For the first time in Myanmar, education was conducted by local instructors. Our ongoing project will place a further 700 oximeters in hospitals in Myanmar to join the 150 oximeters already donated.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Lifebox has been very active in PNG and in September 2017, at the PNG Medical Symposium, 30 new oximeters were distributed to hospitals by PNG coordinator Dr Arvin Karu.





PACIFIC

In November 2016, the ASA was delighted to host Pacific Lifebox Champions Dr Luke Nasedra (Fiji) and Dr Bata Anigafutu (Solomon Islands) at the ASA National Scientific Congress. The presence of Luke and Bata at the meeting helped raise the profile of Lifebox amongst the anaesthesia community and assisted the ASA in raising more than \$20,000 for Lifebox. The value of Lifebox oximeters in the Pacific is best expressed by another great Pacific Lifebox champion, Dr Kaeni Agiomea, who has recently been quoted as saying: "Life ain't safe without a Lifebox oximeter."



Above: Dr Steve Kinnear is presenting local anaesthetist Dr Jampel with a LifeBox Pulse Oximetre.

BHUTAN

Dr Steve Kinnear, an anaesthetist and Lifebox volunteer from Adelaide, introduced Lifebox to Bhutan in 2015 while assisting with anaesthesia teaching. He has returned to Bhutan yearly, including on an Interplast surgical trip, and has continued to teach oximeter use and support the local anaesthetist.

DONATIONS

Interplast acknowledges the continued support of our donors. In 2016-17 there were 15 donations from individuals totalling \$41,604.53. The ASA raised more than \$20,000 from a raffle at their national congress and speakers at the ANZCA Annual Scientific Meeting, in lieu of receiving gifts, donated more than \$10,000 to Lifebox. This money goes a long way with \$US250 providing an excellent oximeter complete with a warranty and training materials. Donations to Lifebox ANZ are now tax deductible and can be made online at: www.interplast.org.au/learn-more/our-work/lifebox-australia-new-zealand/

WHAT IS NEXT?

We continue to work with our partners in the Pacific and Asia to place more oximeters in hospitals in need and to ensure that donated oximeters remain in use, and are operated appropriately. The next year will see significant activity in Myanmar and Mongolia continue and we are excited about the prospect of contributing to a successful project in Bangladesh. We need your support more than ever!

