



Helping to educate, heal and empower the people of Timor-Leste

A report for the EMERGE Foundation



Thank you for your support

A message from
Professor Zlatko Skrbis,
Vice-Chancellor and
President

Dear Ian and Marionne

I would like to thank you and the Board of the EMERGE Foundation for your steadfast commitment to our partnership and mission in Timor-Leste. It has been another year of uncertainty, and it is a comfort to know that you are with us every step of the way.

You are creating transformative opportunities for the students and communities of Timor-Leste. You are creating a better way of life and opening doors to education and careers where there may have been none. Your generosity has allowed our programs to continue operating during these circumstances and students to continue their education knowing that they have people who believe in them and their future.

ACU is a community that is connected through caring, empathy and the belief that together we can make a difference in the lives of those that need it most. Your commitment and generosity of spirit continues to inspire our staff and students and never have they needed this more than in the past two years.

I look forward to continuing our relationship for many years to come. Thank you for being there for the students and people of Timor-Leste when they needed it the most.

Professor Zlatko Skrbis
Vice-Chancellor and President



Children and Youth Centre (CYC), Ponta Leste

Empowering youth through sports



Project lead – Dr Paul Taylor, Assistant Deputy Head, Behavioural and Health Sciences

In 2020, ACU partnered with AMS to provide funding for Children and Youth Centre (CYC), a non-formal educational centre that provides lessons in English and literacy and a sports program to support the struggling school system in Baucau.

Computer classes are no longer offered, with the focus on English and literacy. Baucau schools operate morning and afternoon sessions for students, which means many children are not in school during the daytime. During term time, the CYC provides students a place to extend their learning outside of school and affords a learning environment away from home, which is not always conducive to study.

Throughout their participation, students' hours of attendance are recorded, and they're given graded written and spoken assessments. Certificates of completion are awarded to students, and graduation is a celebrated occasion where government and local NGO representatives are invited to attend. Graduates have gone on to study at Dili University and at overseas institutions.

CYC also partners with ACU to deliver the Future in Youth sporting program, which has continued to flourish in spite of pandemic pressures. It's been particularly encouraging to see such great class participation from girls in the program. Even though we've been unable to travel, ACU continued supporting this program through purchases of sporting equipment.

2021 ACTIVITY

Before the global pandemic the CYC held in-person classes and sporting activities. COVID-19 restrictions impacted activities in 2020 and 2021 and the centre faced extended lockdown periods. It also meant that for two years Australian students have been unable to travel to the centre to serve as guest teachers.

Despite this, programs have continued whenever possible, and a new branch recently opened in Quelicai for students to learn English. This program commenced with 95 enrolled students and three staff members.

At the Ponta Leste centre, there are currently 45 to 50 students taking educational subjects, and 95 students take part in the sports classes. The Ponta Leste soccer team were the local competition champion's last season. During 2021, there were eight staff employed at the centre.



ACU STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions impacted CYC activities in 2020 and 2021 and ACU staff and students were unable to travel to the centre. In a case of creating opportunity from disappointment the allocated budget for this travel was able to be redirected to fund the purchase of a vehicle for the Dolce Cuore clinic – part of the Maternal and Childcare Program.

It had been a long-term goal of the clinic committee to source an appropriate vehicle to use when performing community health visits in the districts surrounding Baucau. In November this year the opportunity arose to bid on a Landcruiser Wagon (Troop Carrier) which was being decommissioned by an NGO linked with Australian Aid operations. Quick and coordinated activity from the Australian Committee, EMERGE and ACU allowed this vehicle to be secured.

Until now a minibus (microlet) was hired for each of these trips which occur 3 – 4 times a week. The use of the new vehicle will allow safer access to the sometimes-remote communities as well as broaden the locations able to be visited.



Maternal and Childcare Program

Impact in health care

Project Lead - Associate Professor Stephen Guinea, Associate Dean, Learning, Teaching and Professional Experience

Established in 2012, ACU's Barefoot Nurses program promotes health literacy and basic primary health care for people in the Baucau district in Timor-Leste. In 2021 this program was renamed the Maternal and Childcare Program, with a focus on infants and children due to the high rate of childhood mortality and chronic diseases in the region. For the past year this program has been implemented at two clinics in Timor-Leste: The Dolce Cuore Clinic in Baucau, and a clinic in Dili.



DOLCE CUORE CLINIC, BAUCAU

This clinic is led by Dr Ivonia Ana De.O.M. Sarmento and is currently staffed by:

- one full-time doctor
- three nurses and midwives – one general nurse, one nurse administrator, and one midwife
- two part-time pharmacists.

All staff members are local Timorese, which helps to ensure the clinic is available most of the year for patients to visit.

2021 ACTIVITY

In 2021, more than 8,400 patients received services from the clinic, either through visits or through outreach services. This is an increase of over 2,000 patients in the past 12 months, demonstrating the valuable contribution the clinic is making to the Baucau community and surrounding districts. The majority of the patients were diagnosed and treated for upper respiratory tract infections, hypertension, back pain, arthritis, anaemia, bronchitis, dermatitis, diarrhoea, scabies and gastritis.

These numbers are significant given the impact of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste and subsequent restrictions on clinic visits.

An opportunity in challenging times Unfortunately, due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19 and travel restrictions, ACU staff and students were unable to travel to Timor-Leste to conduct planned programs such as Train the Trainer. The ongoing pandemic also impacted the clinic, with staff unable to travel to Dili and Indonesia to purchase medication and supplies. The pandemic has, however, provided new opportunities such as telehealth.

In early 2021, a need for better IT infrastructure for the clinic was identified. The current laptop and internet connection used by clinic staff was no longer adequately meeting the need for day-to-day activities. Furthermore, it was expected that newer equipment and a more reliable internet connection would open up opportunities for professional development for clinic staff; provide future capacity for telehealth (with national and international collaboration where needed); and the possibility to participate in virtual placement programs with partner organisations such as ACU.

As a result, the EMERGE Foundation approved redirection of unused funds



that were allocated for student travel in 2020/2021 and allowed for IT equipment to be purchased instead. With the invaluable assistance of our Timorese colleague Elvis, the equipment was sourced and installed in September 2021. It is already proving valuable, allowing Doctor Ivonia to meet regularly with members of the Australian Clinic Committee, as well as with other medical professionals for development and knowledge transfer.

Further opportunities to virtually support clinic operations and development of the staff in telehealth delivery are already being planned. It is expected these activities will continually enhance the capacity of the clinic to meet the medical needs of the local community.



HEALTH CLINIC, DILI

In 2021 the EMERGE Foundation supported a health clinic in Dili to advance the quality of maternal and childcare. By providing antenatal care, the clinic aims to educate expectant mothers on their nutritional and personal health requirements to ensure a healthy pregnancy. The clinic provides post-natal support to mothers in the form of nutritional and health support programs designed to ensure normal health, growth and development of the infant and the mother.

2021 ACTIVITY

Timor-Leste has fared better than many of its neighbours during COVID-19. According to World Health Organisation data, since January 2020 there have been fewer than 20,000 COVID-19 cases, most in 2021 following the spread of the Delta variant. Of these, there have been only 121 COVID-19 deaths. With a population slightly over 1.3 million, this is an infection rate of only 1.5 per cent, and a consequent mortality rate of around 0.6 per cent. Around 850,000

vaccine doses have been administered across the population to date.

While these COVID-19 outcomes are encouraging, they have come at a substantial cost from extended lockdowns and quarantine events, particularly in Dili. Although this clinic has remained open during this period, restrictions on mobility have meant that fewer patients have been able to visit the clinic. Nonetheless, regular infant nutrition programs have continued, and those who have attended have still received free medical care. The clinic also participated in vaccination rollout programs.

There has also been a blanket restriction on travel between Australia and Timor-Leste for much of the past 18 months, which will only normalise in January 2022. As a consequence of this, there have been no opportunities for ACU nursing and midwifery students to participate in missions to the country. It is hoped that this program will recommence in 2022.

On the positive side, the clinic has held initial discussions in conjunction with ACU about establishing a broader network of Catholic health care providers in Timor-Leste to share expertise and resources.

The health clinic in Dili is immensely grateful for the support of ACU and the EMERGE Foundation, particularly during this difficult period. It will be very effectively leveraged once restrictions are relaxed in Dili.



ACU STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Usually, staff and students from ACU have travelled to Timor-Leste in August/September to conduct the Train the Trainer program. Normally ACU students assist with the delivery of the program by educating the locals about basic health literacy and demonstrating how to use resources provided by ACU. Communication can be a challenge when ACU students visit Timor-Leste, as locals who participate speak different dialects and have limited capacity to speak English.

Instituto Catolico Para Formacao de Professores (ICFP)

Project Lead - Br Peter Corr, AMS and Ms Margie Beck, ICFP College, ACU alumna



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

After the result of the referendum for independence was determined, and the overwhelming support for an independent Timor-Leste was assured, Bishop Basílio Nascimento of Baucau was contacted by the then Provincial of the Marist Brothers, Melbourne Province, Australia. Together they decided to establish a teacher training institute for future primary teachers as one way of rebuilding the education sector of Timor-Leste. The majority of teachers before independence had been Indonesian and have since left the country.

Instituto Católico para a Formação de Professores (ICFP) opened its doors in October 2003 with a cohort of 53 students, and it was initially accredited by ACU. In 2009, the Timorese Education Act made it possible for each tertiary institute in Timor-Leste to award degrees to its own students.

By 2021, more than 700 students have graduated from ICFP. ICFP is now known as one of the leading tertiary educational institutions in Timor-Leste. It specialises in training primary school teachers for all 13 districts of the country.

The students are traditionally from subsistence farming backgrounds, and more than 100 ICFP students are supported by scholarships, many of which have been provided by the EMERGE Foundation.

A priority of ICFP has been to transition to an institution that is completely staffed by Timorese people and to offer courses developed and taught by locals, all of whom have research capacity.

Upon graduation many students return to their hometowns to teach the next generation of Timorese people.

2021 ACTIVITY

In 2021, many scholarships were made available through EMERGE Foundation funding.

YOUR IMPACT THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are the only available funding for students, and they are a source of gratitude, happiness and relief.

Students use the scholarship funds for a range of expenses, for example many Bachelor of Education students use it to cover part of their tuition fees in their fourth year.

The Bachelor of Teaching students use the scholarship funds for:

- tuition fees
- rent and food
- printing and photocopying
- graduation costs
- travel costs as required
- emergency funds, such as for a death in the family or illness.

This year, 109 students completed and conferred their degree during the 11 September 2021 graduation ceremony. Seventy of these students graduated with a Bachelor of Teaching and 39 with a Bachelor of Education (Licentiate). All students in the Licentiate program found employment in schools as contract teachers or volunteers.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

Due to the spread of COVID-19, a complete lockdown was imposed in Timor-Leste from 15 March 2021 until 8 August 2021, and again from 27 August 2021 through to 15 September 2021. This resulted in classes being conducted online using platforms such as Facebook or WhatsApp.

As a precaution against the virus, a staff member cleans all areas of the institute every working day and hand sanitiser is available at the entrance of every building and in every teaching space. Additionally, masks are provided to everyone who enters the college.

As students were unable to complete their professional teaching experience in 2021, they were asked to teach small groups of children in the neighbourhood. These community-based teaching programs were taught in makeshift classrooms such as verandas or outside for a period of five weeks. Each day the students would send their lesson plans through to their

SCHOLARSHIP ALLOCATION

US\$3,000 awarded to students enrolled in a Bachelor of Teaching. The scholarship is paid in equal monthly payments over three years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 students in year 1 • 8 students in year 2 • 17 students in year 3 	38
US\$500 awarded to students enrolled in a Bachelor of Education (four-year course). This is awarded as a one-off scholarship for students in their fourth year.	29



Licentiate students kick up their heels after the graduation



Community-based teaching practicum – under trees and on verandas.

supervising teachers and photograph or video their lessons. The ICFP teaching staff would then provide the students with feedback on their teaching practice.

Additionally, Year 3 students are usually tasked with completing a small project at the school. This year all projects were concentrated on doing something positive in their local environments, such as planting a garden or cleaning up garbage.

WHAT'S NEXT

ICFP aspires to provide quality pre-service formation for future teachers for Ensino Basico schools in order to strengthen the teaching and

learning process throughout all the municipalities of Timor-Leste.

The mission of ICFP is to enhance Timor-Leste's education sector by providing a high academic standard of teaching and learning to ensure graduates are qualified to teach in Ensino Basico schools; to work with schools and communities to improve the standard of education; and to undertake education research in order to make informed decisions for developing schools. The mission is underpinned by the teachings of St Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of the Marist Brothers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FROM STUDENTS

“The lesson I learned from ICFP is how to train children, teach them well, and before teaching them, we have to love them first.”

“I learned to be punctual. I applied this to my life and with my family, and in the school where I do volunteer teaching. The second thing I learnt is to teach children with love and to talk to them about being honest and truthful in their lives.”

“I want to thank Maritsa and the institute because of what I learned from them, what I can do, and what I can apply for the rest of my life.”

“The positive impact of my role as a Timorese leader is that I can transfer what I learnt during my time at ICFP and help my students prepare for their lives ahead because they are the future of this country. If we educate them well, this country can move forward.”

“The important lesson I learnt from ICFP is patience with love, because becoming a teacher is not easy. We also learned important teaching skills and how to try different strategies, especially with difficult students. We learned good habits like being on time, dressing appropriately, and being prepared for the lessons.”

Good relationships with the students and other teachers is very important for the wellbeing of the school and ourselves. We learned public speaking skills and how to express ourselves confidently. We also learned to be generous and to help out in the local community and parish. I now believe personal discipline, work plans, flexibility, and availability are important qualities for a teacher.”

STUDENTS SUPPORTED FROM 2021 EMERGE FOUNDATION FUNDS

NAME	FACULTY
Leopoldino Soares Martinis Lopes	Education – Licentiate (4th Year)
Celestino Marques da Silva	Education – Bachelor of Teaching (1st year)
Edmundo Ximenes	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Americo Soares Cabral	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Leonita Fiana Soares	Education – Licentiate (4th year)
Antonia da Costa Fraga	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Rivaldina Freitas	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Juliana Silvania da Costa Matos	Education – Bachelor of Teaching (1st year)
Ligia Uzete Francisca Carmoneza	Education – Bachelor of Teaching (1st year)
Firengina de Jesus Marcal Freitas	Education – Licentiate (4th year)
Joviana Domingas	Education – Bachelor of Teaching (1st year)
Ana Cipriana	Education – Bachelor of Teaching (1st year)
Francisca Perpetua Xavier de Sa Belo	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Laura Elisabeth Ximenes Belo	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Lucia Barros	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Olimpia Correia Gaio	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Odete Correia	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Sabina Ximenes	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Sonia Maria de Fatima Soares	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Cristiana Maha Rosario Fernandes	Education – Licentiate (4th year)
Agostinho Freitas Boavida	Education – Licentiate (4th year)
Teodora Belo Ximenes Ribeiro	Education – Licentiate (4th year)
Joao Freitas Correia	Education – Licentiate (4th year)
Genoveva do Rosario Guterres Neto	Education – Licentiate (4th year)
Erminia dos Santos	Education – Licentiate (4th year)
Jacinta Guterres	Education – Bachelor of Teaching (1st year)
Lucia de Jesus Sequeria Martins	Education – Bachelor of Teaching (1st year)
Tomas dos Santos Moreira	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Lazaro Ferreira Freitas	Education – Bachelor of Teaching (1st year)
Arlindo Jose Ximenes	Education – Licentiate (4th Year)
Jaimito de Jesus Fernando Soares Gaio	Education – Bachelor of Teaching (1st year)
Ana Timotea da Silva	Education – Licentiate (4th year)
Salistiano Fernandes	Education – Bachelor of Teaching (1st year)
Afonso Marcos Guterres	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Joana Freitas Belo	Education – Licentiate (4th year)
Jesuinha Madalena Freitas Belo	Education – Bachelor of Teaching (1st year)
Eliza Soares	Education – Bachelor of Teaching (1st year)
Ana Emerenciana Belo	Education – Licentiate (4th year)
Cristina Freitas X Belo	Licentiate Education (4th Year)
Rosa Freitas Ximenes	Education – Licentiate (4th year)
Joaninha Nogueira dos Santos	Education – Bachelor of Teaching (1st year)
Leonora Barreto	Education – Licentiate (4th year)

Financials

On behalf of ACU and our student community, we would like to thank the EMERGE Foundation for your generosity and philanthropic spirit that has allowed our work to continue in East Timor, particularly during these unknown times.



OVERALL FINANCIALS FOR 2021

Emerge Fund Balance: beginning 2021		\$485,441
Agreed 2021 Expenditure		
FIY redirect to \$25,425 car purchase ^	\$28,000	
FIY (CYC Ponta Leste)	\$23,604	
Clinic in Baucau and Dili	\$140,782	
Kilbur Domin Clinic	\$27,889	
ICFP	\$70,000	
Budgeted 2021 Expenditure		\$290,275
Projected Fund Balance: end 2021		\$195,166
Plus residual from car purchase^		\$2,575
Emerge Fund balance: end 2021		\$197,741

Your support means the Timorese communities are being supplied with basic needs for life and healthcare and students can continue their studies, this is truly life changing impact.

We have allocated the 2021 funds to the three projects as outlined below.

REDIRECTION TO FUNDING:

CYC had leftover funds of \$28,000 due to students not being able to travel overseas. EMERGE Foundation approved using these funds in purchasing a vehicle for the clinic USD\$18,000 bid paid AUD\$25,425

Kilbur Domin Clinic was approved in August to redirect their staff and student travel funds to other various projects. There was an increased need across all areas of the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program with not only the COVID-19 pandemic but also local flooding significantly impacting the community. The projects funded were:

1. Full time employment for the CBR and Community Program Coordinator until the end of 2021

2. Financial support for program to support youth with disabilities to attend high school in the local area
3. Contribution to CBR program to support community outreach for children with disabilities in rural and remote areas to promote health, wellbeing, participation, and inclusion in the community.
4. Contribution to CBR program to support "in house" rehabilitation program for people with disabilities attending Kilbur Domin for intensive rehabilitation (including the mental health program, neuro rehabilitation, physical rehabilitation, and paediatric rehabilitation programs) to support return to work and/or engagement in occupations.
5. Purchasing of equipment for people with disabilities to have access to their homes and their community

In 2022 we will provide an update on the additional Kilbur Domin Clinic projects to the EMERGE Board.

Currently, there is a balance of \$197,741 remaining from the funds donated by Emerge.

ACU will prepare a business plan to propose activities and use of funding for 2022.

Thank You

A message from the Director, Advancement and Alumni

Melina Marchetta, renowned author and alumna of ACU, wrote in her seminal novel *Looking for Alibrandi*, “Promise me you’ll never stop dreaming”. This is the gift that you give to our neighbours in Timor-Leste – you help them dream of a life, a career, and a world of opportunities that would be impossible without your generosity. Their lives are forever changed with the gift of education.

Thank you for being partners to these projects and supporting our mission. You are helping transform the lives of the people of Timor-Leste. You are creating frontline health care workers, allied health professionals, educators, lawyers, business professionals, philosophers, researchers, creative art professionals and more. You are not only providing opportunity and

hope to those who may have thought their dreams were unachievable but also building character, leadership and empathy in our students and staff.

I thank you for being a part of our generous philanthropic community. It is a community that has come together for the future of our students, creating a wonderful legacy.

Ms Rachelle Bramley
Director, Advancement & Alumni
Australian Catholic University



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