



## **FRIENDS OF VELLORE, QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWSLETTER MAY 2024**

"We seek to be a witness to the healing ministry of Christ through excellence in education, service and research." - Ida Sophia Scudder

Dear Friends of Vellore Queensland branch,

We trust this newsletter finds you all in good health.

This year has been uneventful so far with a smooth return post the Covid era. We continue to have our branch meetings every 3 months in person and are always looking to engage new people to join our endeavours and for ways to promote FOV. We encourage anyone who is interested in our cause or wants more information about CMC and FOV to get in touch with us. We encourage you to look at our new AVB (Australia Vellore Board) website <https://friendsofvellore.org.au/> and the FOV Qld Facebook page for more information.

We are very excited about our upcoming FOV QLD fundraising dinner to be held on July 20<sup>th</sup> at Emmanuel Uniting Church, South Pine Road in Enoggera at 6.30pm. Our guest speaker is Dr (Prof) Anu Rose, CHAD (COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT) Hospital, CMC Vellore. We look forward to a fulfilling and fun filled evening with great food, company and talks. Most of all, it is such a worthy cause. Please invite your friends and family to attend. The invitation is attached.

In CMC, Prof Anu Rose's time is divided between community health and bioethics. In the field of community health, she looks after a project providing health care services and social and developmental interventions for the health, development and social needs of Jawadhi Hills, a remote marginalised tribe in hilly belt of the Eastern Ghats. FOV has contributed to various projects in Jawadhi Hills. The Jawadhi Hills Tribals Project was initiated in 1980 and is home to a population of 30,000. In the field of bioethics, Prof Rose's work is in curriculum development and the teaching of bioethics for the various academic streams in the institution.

## CMC NEWS



CMC now proudly has 3844 beds spread across six campuses in and around Vellore, and in the neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh. The state-of-the-art Ranipet campus is now fully functional, providing tertiary services. Various speciality departments have started OPD consultation at CMC's new Ranipet Campus. A few departments have also started their inpatient facilities here.

## CMC ACCOLADES

The World's Best Smart Hospitals 2023 ranks 300 facilities in 28 countries that lead in their use of AI, digital imaging, telemedicine, robotics and electronic functionalities. Five Departments from Christian Medical College made it into this list.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Department of Community Health provides primary care to the rural, urban and tribal communities in and around Vellore and serves as a training ground for medical, nursing and paramedical students. Caring for the poor and marginalised has continued to be at the centre of CMC's philosophy. A special highlight of the programme includes counselling services. The most common psychological problems in the community include those related to maladjustment between spouses, alcoholism and HIV, for which counselling and free legal aid and advice is provided. The counsellors are regularly invited to the Special Prison for Women in Vellore in Vellore, to provide counselling for inmates.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT (CHAD) HOSPITAL

This branch hospital provides comprehensive health and development programme under the Community Health Department of CMC, Vellore and covers a population of approximately 200,000 in the rural, urban and tribal community areas of Vellore Districts, including urban slums of Vellore and the Jawadhi Hills area. The programme is carried out through the joint efforts of medical and nursing staff, social workers and volunteers. Health activities are conducted in close collaboration with the existing government services. The 135 bed CHAD hospital serves not only as a base hospital for the peripheral programme but also as a secondary health centre.

## INSIDE CMC - one of thousands of stories.



Mr. Prakasam came to CMC in his early teens with leprosy. In keeping with its mission of holistic care, CMC not only treated him for his leprosy - a disease which carries a lot of social stigma - but also rehabilitated him, providing him with a job and a safe place to be. Eventually, he got back into mainstream society and today, he is a happy father to three children as well as a trusted meat and egg-seller on campus! Apart from the income he makes from this job, he also receives a pension from CMC where he worked from a young age till his retirement at 60. "Though I suffered a lot as a child, I am now a happy man. I owe everything to the doctors and other members of the CMC community, who have looked after me in a hundred big and small ways throughout my life," he says.

If you would like to contribute to the ongoing work of CMC Vellore

Donate by bank transfer:

Account Name: Friends of Vellore Christian Medical College & Hospital Queensland Group Support Fund

BSB: 633 000

Account no.: 131 073 413

Reference: Surname and suburb

Please email the Treasurer at [cmcvellore@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cmcvellore@optusnet.com.au) so a receipt can be sent to you.

Donate by Cheque

Cheque payable to 'Friends of Vellore Support Fund'

Post to: PO Box 374

Northgate Qld 4013

Thank you for taking the time to read through this. We hope many of you will be able to join us at the annual fund-raising dinner!

**Neeta Wilfred**

***Publicity Officer, FOV Qld***

May 2024