

TRISTEL PTY LTD. SUPPORTS REMOTE OUTREACH PROGRAM TO MADAGASCAR

Tristel Pty Ltd. was recently approached by Kim Mackley, a urology nurse working with Dr. Richard McMullin, to support Australian Doctors for Africa (ADFA). ADFA is a 'medical humanitarian organization providing medical training and services assistance, hospital equipment and structural redevelopments for vulnerable communities in East Africa, to enable greater access to treatment and long term sustainable development' (<https://ausdocafrica.org/about-us/>).

ADFA's work in Somaliland, the Comoros Islands, Madagascar and Ethiopia takes them to remote and under-resourced facilities. Some facilities suffer from what would be considered a lack of infrastructure and essentials, including running water, and ADFA will often provide their own supplies, including gloves and hand cleanser.



Above: Photos provided by Kim Mackley of the wards (left) and waiting room (right).

The team involves several medical specialties, including urology. The aim of the urology component is to provide services/surgeries for those who cannot afford treatment, as well as the continued education and training of local medical staff specific to urology. The doctors and staff donate their time, and often rely on donated equipment and supplies to support the program. ADFA's services are free of charge, enabling patients with financial disadvantage to access medical care. Additionally, ADFA's doctors often provide services that are not available locally.

ADFA travelled to Madagascar from October 23rd to November 6th 2016. Tristel Pty Ltd was asked to provide the Tristel Trio Wipes System to high-level disinfect the Cogentix (non-lumened) cystoscope that was to be used. As an outreach program, transport and supplies are limited. The Trio Tristel Wipes System was preferred as it meant that there was a significantly faster turnaround on the Cogentix scope than with a conventional scope. As a result, less scopes were required for transport, and traditional disinfection methods (involving dangerous chemistries and/or expensive automated machines) were not required. The Tristel Trio Wipes System ensured access to fast and safe cystoscopy.



Using the Tristel Trio Wipes System, the team was able to successfully perform seven cystoscopies. The cystoscopies were of vital importance to the program; not only did they assist in determining which surgeries were more urgent and what should be completed during the ten-day visit, but they also allowed local medical staff who had never used flexible cystoscopes to watch, learn and assist with diagnoses during the procedures.

Left: Photo provided by Kim Mackley of the sterilizing room at one of the facilities.

Kim has stated that the program was considered successful, and there are plans to expand to three to four visits a year. An increase in frequency would give a greater number of patients access to treatment, ensure adequate follow up, and provide ongoing education for medical staff. Kim said: “The provision and supplies from Tristel is greatly appreciated and used to make a positive difference in the lives of many – thank you”.



Above: Dr. McMullin cleaning urology scope accessories using the Tristel Wipes System.

Tristel Pty Ltd. would like to thank Kim Mackley for contributing to the above information, and for the photos.