



Caring for hearts of the Pacific

Charity No: CCS2875

Dear Supporters,

The Hearts4kids Trust team are sorry to announce that we cannot have a surgical visit to Fiji this year. Cyclone Winston had a huge impact, in particular on the area near Lautoka hospital, and this has set back the building plans for the theatres we were going to be using. We have been in touch with the paediatricians from both Lautoka and Suva in the past month and after consultation with them have agreed that a surgical mission in late August as we had planned would be very difficult to organise safely. We all agreed that the priority is to rebuild the houses and roads and ensure a safe supply of food and water, which will take some months to achieve. They would like to have a clinic visit in October, and we have committed to doing that. At this point our colleagues, the Friends of Fiji adult cardiac team, are continuing to plan to go in September.

This was a blow to Hearts4kids, having already got well underway with the planning, but we appreciate the paediatricians being open with us about the needs of the Fijian children and have always aimed to work with their full involvement. Our thoughts have been with them as they work hard to restore some basic services in the devastation around them.

Meanwhile the team have met to discuss plans for the year, and have realised we can use the time wisely to acquire more of the equipment and resources needed to run independent visits to Fiji within the near future. This will allow us to visit when it best suits the paediatric services in Fiji, and it may also allow us to visit other Pacific countries.

At the moment we would urge those of you who have supported Hearts4kids financially to instead consider donating to one of the organisations that are helping Fiji recover from the cyclone. We hope we can give you some news about the specific families of our children over there, when the communication systems are restored.

We will update you soon with more specifics on the equipment, and plans for a very busy 2017 trip!

Sincerely,

Kirsten Finucane and the Trustees of Hearts4kids.