



Australian Embassy
Timor-Leste

COVID-19



11 June 2021

A message from Australia's Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Peter Roberts



Photo credit: Marie Stopes Timor-Leste.

As we approach the middle of the year, we continue to work together to address the challenges of COVID-19. Since our last newsletter a month ago, more than 4,000 cases have been recorded, bringing to 8,000 the total number of confirmed cases since the start of the pandemic.

Fortunately, Timor-Leste's vaccination campaign is proceeding at speed. In just over two months, more than 90,000 vaccinations have been administered. About 20% of Dili's population have received a first dose.



In the past month Australia has:

- 01 Provided an economic recovery package of AUD20 million (about USD 15.5 million) to support households and stimulate economic activity. This money will fund 244 community infrastructure projects through the National Village Development Program (PNDS). The funding will also support the government to establish a new social support payment *Bolsa da Mãe Jerasaun Foun* for pregnant women and young children. Our economic recovery package is in addition to our usual development assistance of AUD100 million per year in recognition of the financial hardship wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 02 Delivered a further 50,000 Australian-made AstraZeneca vaccines to Timor-Leste to support Phase 2 of the national vaccination rollout. In total 70,000 Australian vaccines have arrived in Timor-Leste, with more to follow in line with our commitment to ensure Timor-Leste's population can achieve universal coverage.
- 03 Given a further AUD50 million to COVAX to ensure comprehensive vaccine coverage for our region, including Timor-Leste. This takes Australia's total COVAX contribution to AUD130 million. We were delighted to see 100,000 COVAX-supplied AstraZeneca vaccines arrive in Timor-Leste on 9 June, to supplement the 24,000 doses which arrived in April.



04

Provided 184 medical oxygen canisters to help the Ministry of Health treat patients with serious cases of COVID-19. We also provided a portable X-ray machine which will be used to diagnose complications associated with COVID-19.

05

Continued to partner with Civil Protection and the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion to support those affected by the Easter floods and the recent Bebonuk storm surge. We have provided further emergency humanitarian supplies, water filtration machines and hygiene and kitchen kits as required to support the ongoing effort. With support from Australia's PARTISIPA program, Bee Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Water) has transported more than 18 million litres of water to evacuation centres and flood-affected communities.

As friends and neighbours Australia and Timor-Leste have a shared interest in a healthy, safe and prosperous region. Our AUD20 million economic response package will support Timor-Leste households and stimulate economic activity.



Photo credit: Mídia PR / Julião Fernandes

Timor-Leste President HE Francisco Guterres Lú-Olo and First Lady Cidália Nobre Guterres receive their Australian-manufactured COVID-19 vaccines at the Presidential Palace.

To stay up to date with developments follow our Facebook page 'Australia in Timor-Leste'. You can find past editions of this newsletter on our website.



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