



Australian Embassy
Timor-Leste

COVID-19



16 July 2021

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



Welcome to the July edition of our Embassy newsletter.

In good news since our last newsletter a month ago, the rate of COVID-19 infection in Dili has slowed and the number of active cases has dropped. Our congratulations to the Ministry of Health for the timely rollout of the national vaccination campaign and to all those who have come forward to be vaccinated. Australia is proud to be partnering with you.

With cases detected in every district and lower vaccination rates outside of Dili however, we must all continue to work together to fight this virus and to protect those more vulnerable than ourselves. I was delighted to receive my second dose of AstraZeneca last week. Being fully vaccinated with two doses is required for maximum protection against COVID-19, and in particular for optimal effectiveness against the Delta variant.

In the past month Australia has:

- 01 Delivered a further 157,850 Australian-made COVID-19 vaccines to Timor-Leste, bringing to 227,850 the total number of Australian vaccines we have supplied since May. In response to Timor-Leste's request for a vaccination surge, Australia is ramping up supply to enable Timor-Leste to accelerate its vaccination campaign, both in Dili and the municipalities, saving lives and reducing the threat of serious illness and hospitalisation caused by COVID-19. At a time when the global supply of vaccines remains constrained, Australia has committed to sharing up to 15 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines with countries in the Pacific and Timor-Leste so that our region can respond and recover together.
- 02 Extended Australia's PARTISIPA program for another 10 years with an AUD80 million investment in Timor-Leste's National Village Development Program (PNDS). By creating jobs, stimulating local economic activity and building and rehabilitating critical local infrastructure, PNDS is helping to address the economic impacts of COVID-19 and improving living conditions.
- 03 Continued to focus on skills and vocational qualifications by establishing the Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC) in Timor-Leste. The APTC is already operational in nine countries in the region with Timor-Leste the tenth to join. The APTC will partner with local training institutions to deliver quality training in Timor-Leste that is relevant for employers, both here in Timor-Leste and internationally.



04 Through our Defence Cooperation Program (DCP) commenced work on a COVID-19 isolation facility in the border area of Maliana. This follows the earlier successful collaboration by the DCP, F-FDTL and the Ministry of Health to establish an isolation facility in Baucau. The Australian Defence Force and the F-FDTL are also finalising plans to conduct our largest annual exercise, Hari'i Hamutuk, which will start in August and focuses on building engineering capacity.

05 Opened a new purpose built training facility for the PNTL Special Police Unit (UEP) and joined with Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak and Vice Minister of the Interior Tony Armindo to open a new police post on Atauro Island. The Australian Federal Police, through the Timor-Leste Police Development Program, is supporting the PNTL to enforce border controls and prevent the illegal movement of people and goods.

06 Launched a new public private partnership – Orijem Timor – connecting Timorese coffee farmers and exporters with new markets overseas. This Business Partnerships Platform initiative will support 1,000 households including women to earn more income by producing specialty high-value coffee for global markets.

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