

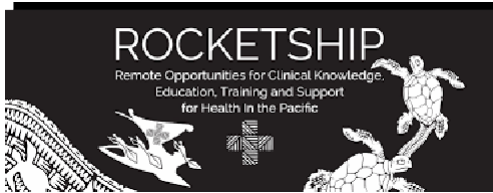
# ROCKETSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2021

**Rocketship Pacific Ltd**

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Website: <https://rocket-ship.org>



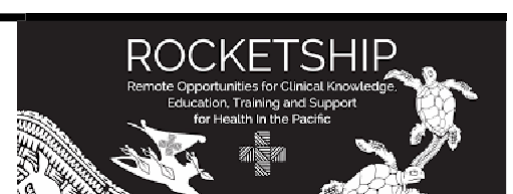
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## Rocketship Pacific

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## Chair's Report



Our 2021 year has been scented with promise and possibility as the world changes under the tensions which are prevalent.

We have been in the grips of a one in a hundred-year pandemic and, thankfully, we are seeing some respite from the first 24 months of pandemic life. There is a way to go.

We are seeing the effects of climate change impact on life in the Southwest Pacific more now than ever as conflict and international tensions continue to build.

While we grapple with these tensions, it is important to marry current events and their interpretation to the speed and quality of the news reporting cycle to which we are exposed.

Events are less filtered, less checked, less quality controlled and more often sent to the instant receiving hall of social media news sources in what now approaches near instantaneous news feeds. One can argue the value or risk of such unfettered rapid reporting.

On the background of the doom and gloom seen in news reports, we can take heart that health status across the Pacific has recently seen improvements in health outcomes across life expectancy, perinatal and infant mortality

*We are seeing the effects of climate change impact on life in the Southwest Pacific more now than ever as conflict and international tensions continue to build.*

### Pandemic impact

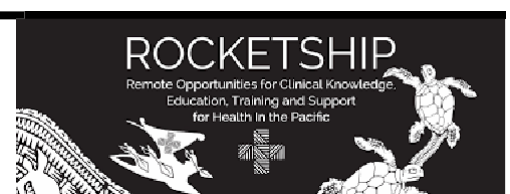
The pandemic has demonstrated the need for both resilience building in health systems and the place of mental health care in health service delivery. These are two areas of import to Rocketship work.

Major discrepancies remain between life expectancy in the "have" and "have not" countries. The pandemic has seen life expectancies drop in 24 of 30 countries indicating its health impacts. (OECD, 2021; Global Health, 2021).

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## How has Rocketship been engaged this last year?

It is our vision to see healthy communities across the Pacific. Our values are Partnerships, Learning, Excellence and Equity. As I mentioned, the issue of health system resilience and mental health skills are current major impacts in health. The work we are engaged in with our partners in the Pacific is firmly applied to primary health care training in the Pacific. Moreover, the aims of these partnerships strive to see training in primary care delivered in country, eliminating the need for clinicians to leave their own homelands for periods of four or more years.

Locally delivered training removes the drain on health care resources, improves service delivery, allows multidisciplinary learning, and supports the social and emotional well-being of clinicians who can train and live close to their families. This latter outcome is particularly poignant in times of lockdowns and travel restrictions.

Delivery of primary care training is a new vocational opportunity for many Pacific Island nations. It remains a non-existent option in many places. It is hoped the programs emerging will provide primary care education which is scalable across many Pacific countries.

As well as scalability and locally delivered training, curriculum development supports strong mental health skill sets in nations where mental health has been the poor cousin of health care in the past. The marriage of strong primary care training, encompassing mental health skills and inclusive of climate change impacts will deliver broadly trained and capable primary care clinicians. This will support developing resilient health systems in future.

Our involvements with primary care, family medicine, and rural generalist training programs in Timor-Leste, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands are all at different levels of maturity. Graduates and trainees in East Timor and Tonga have been intimately involved in delivering Covid based interventions in the last 24 months. Their role has been vital and impactful.

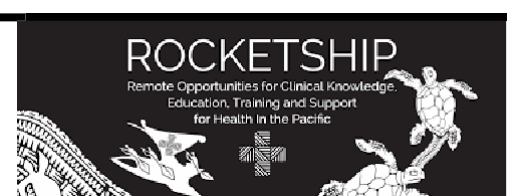
## Partnerships and Graduate Engagement

The contribution of Rocketship in these programs has been as one of many parts of a functioning training program. It has been a satisfying engagement in all these programs especially seeing the impacts of graduates. We are eagerly looking to the Solomon Islands program in Post Graduate Rural Generalist Medicine developing in the next years, following the feasibility study Rocketship completed in 2021 in partnership with AVI.

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We were proud to partner with Fiji National University to complete the FNU Diploma and Masters training in Family Medicine in 2020 and 2021 and continue this engagement in 2022.

Working with FNU, the program was adapted for full distance education, including assessments. We are proud to say this program was the only health based FNU program to run unimpeded in 2020 and continued in 2021.

While training delivery continued, we continued developing partnerships including with RDAA, ACRRM, Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), and others. We maintain engagements with Tonga, Fiji and Vanuatu and hope work with Inspired Adventures will see a fundraiser in Vanuatu in 2023.

Rocketship thanks our generous volunteer base who give freely of their time and energy to assist in the Vision and Mission of Rocketship. We are grateful to the many donors including our regular annual donors whose financial support allows us to do the work we do.

We are hopeful to continue our work in 2022 and beyond. Please support us and follow our progress through our social media, website, and mail outs.

***Dan Manahan***  
**Chair Rocketship**

OECD 2021 <https://www.oecd.org/health/covid-19-pandemic-underlines-need-to-strengthen-resilience-of-health-systems-says-oecd.htm>

Global health 2021 <https://ourworldindata.org/health-meta>

## CEO Report



It is my pleasure to be providing this, my first annual CEO Report, for Rocketship having started in mid-February 2022.

The main focus of my work to date has been to understand the people, workings, and approach of the Board, Executive and volunteers, and how Rocketship pursues its business. Within this, I have been exploring how Rocketship manages the engagement

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and maintenance of volunteers and volunteer contribution, and the business opportunities and risks for Rocketship.

Internally, Rocketship has started a new process for environment scanning of the nation states in the region. The purpose of this environment scan is to ensure that Rocketship has a process for assessing the characteristics of each health service environment (political, economic, social, workforce and other elements ) and therefore having its own baseline that is reasonably informed.

This is important work for the management of Rocketship to ensure that the team is best positioned and prepared to support Rocketship as and when Rocketship needs to respond as risks and/or opportunities emerge. This environment scan process is also intended to build a common purpose and approach as Rocketship engages the Rocketship volunteers with the objectives being:

1. Consolidating the relationship between Rocketship, each volunteer and the other team members: and
2. Identifying targeted actions whereby the volunteers can be undertaking and delivering work that is important to them will be essential to informing decisions within Rocketship.

The strategic plan remains current while new partnerships and memberships with other Australian health sector leaders and innovators are offering potential opportunities for Rocketship. 2022 is an important year as Rocketship seeks to consolidate the gains of its Tonga program and on its history of delivering education services, while it improves:

- Its information gathering and interrogation systems within the volunteer and management stream, and
- The effectiveness of its business systems.

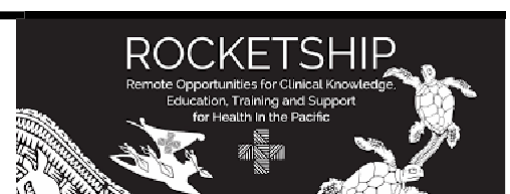
This work now takes on additional timeliness and relevance with a new government in Australia, a new government that has signaled intent to develop new pathways of engagement (and relevance) for Pacific Island nations.

***Phil Johnson***  
**CEO Rocketship**

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## 2021 Organisational Snapshot



**6**  
Board Members



**19**  
Total Volunteers



**8**  
Active Partnerships



**5**  
Doctors Trained



**210%**  
Increase in donations



**1**  
In-country program



**1193**  
Facebook followers

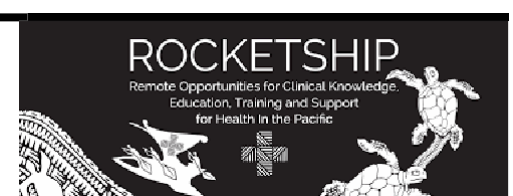


**758**  
Newsletter subscribers

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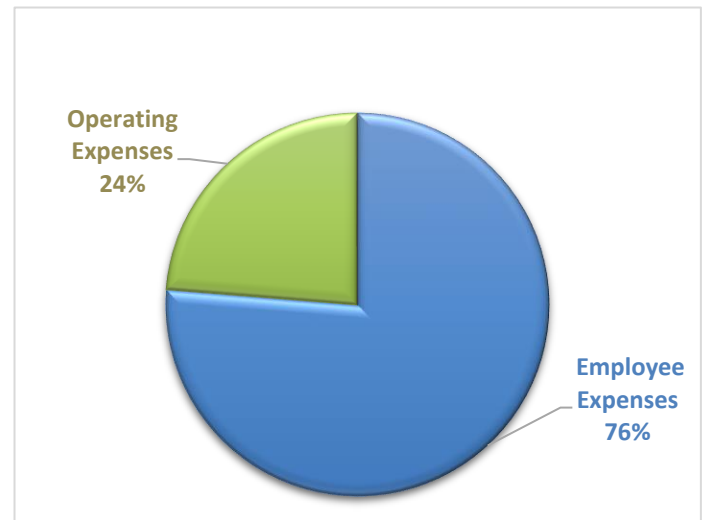
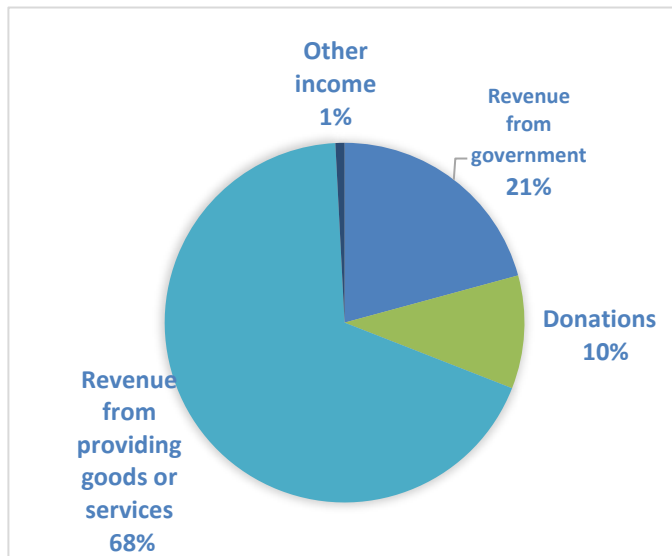
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## Financial Results

1 July 2020 – 31 December 2021



### INCOME

Revenue from government (including grants):	\$23,570
Donations:	\$11,545
Revenue from providing goods or services:	\$77,431
<b>Total revenue:</b>	<b>\$112,546</b>
Other income:	\$923
<b>Total income:</b>	<b>\$113,469</b>

**NET SURPLUS:** **\$53,211**

### EXPENSES

Employee expenses:	\$45,962
Other payments/expenses:	\$14,296
<b>Total expenses:</b>	<b>\$60,258</b>

### BALANCE SHEET

Assets	
<b>Total assets:</b>	<b>\$121,459</b>
Liabilities	
<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	<b>\$2,311</b>
<b>NET ASSETS/LIABILITIES:</b>	<b>\$119,148</b>

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## Our People

### Board of Directors

Dr Dan Manahan (Chair)

Jemma Bimrose

Brett Cowling

Dr Lachlan McIver

Dr Jill Benson

Dr Lisiate 'Ulufonua



### Operations Team:

Phil Johnson – CEO

Brooke Fallon – Executive Assistant

Peter Taylor – Finance Manager

Rachael Smith – Projects Coordinator

Morgan Lemin – Operations Manager

David Gilchrist – Communications and Marketing Manager

Ben Gilchrist – Communications Specialist

Duran Angiki – Advisor



### Tonga Trainer Team:

Dr Sue Smith

Dr Hollie Berghofer

Dr Hayden Henry

Dr Dan Manahan

Dr John Mackenzie

Dr Ian Kamerman

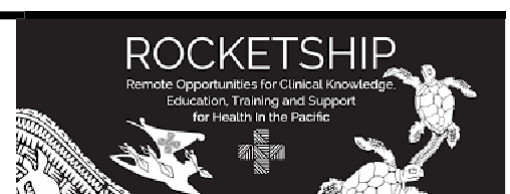
Dr Jill Benson

Dr Lisiate 'Ulufonua

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## Program Profile: Family Medicine Program in Tonga

In 2021, we commenced the third year of our partnership with the Tongan Ministry of Health to deliver the Family Medicine Program delivered by Fiji National University.

- 2 Tongan doctors participate enthusiastically in the Diploma program (FMD 801)
- 3 of the 2019 cohort are thriving in the second year of the Masters program (FMD 830)

There have been continuing challenges due to the pandemic. International travel has yet to resume, and the doctors in Tonga have additional responsibilities to manage.

In spite of these challenges, the Family Medicine Program has continued, albeit with some delays and postponements, but with all other aspects of case discussions, clinical examination tutorials, webinar teaching sessions, weekend workshops, and final year written and clinical examinations able to continue by way of on-line technology.



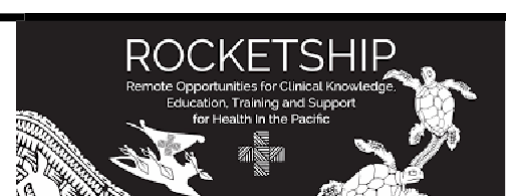
*Rocketship's Dr Sue Smith and Dr John Mackenzie with  
Tonga's Masters cohort Dr Sione Tomiki, Dr Ana Maile and Dr John Lee Taione*

Looking ahead, the team feel strongly that resumption of face-to-face clinical observation and teaching would be of significant benefit and are keen to resume this once travel re-opens. It is unclear when this will happen but is unlikely to be in time for the February exams or introductory workshop in 2022.

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These are some comments from the current trainees regarding the value of the program in their context:

*"Regarding the benefits that I found from FM training it really helps. Being the only doctor in the most remote Island here in Tonga FM training gives me courage to confidently look after the health of our people."*

*"This course allows us, the participants, to help our country with quality service. By providing up to date resources and treatment which can be contextualised into our health setting"*

*"Increase awareness of mental health and emphasize the significance of mental health."*

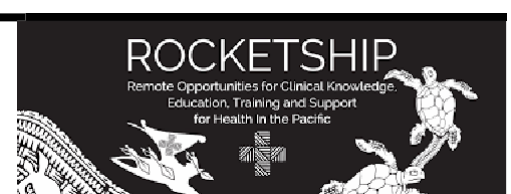
During this year the trainer team has farewelled Dr Hayden Henry with thanks for his contributions, and welcomed Dr Lisiate Ulufonua. Dr Sam Jones will rejoin the team for 2022. We thank the team for their ongoing support and commitment to the trainees in Tonga. Dr Toakase Fakakovikaetau has commenced as the CMO of Clinical Services in Tonga and will be the local co-ordinator for training. Her enthusiasm and commitment to the program and for our work will ensure our continued relationship. Thank you Dr Toa for your passion. FNU has a new full time course co-ordinator, Dr Esther Tilley commencing in 2022. We look forward to our continued partnership with the FNU team.

Rocketship is honoured to be continuing our partnership with the Tongan MoH and FNU into 2022. The Family Medicine Diploma and Masters programs are realising the potential to equip Tonga with a growing cohort of broadly-skilled specialist doctors capable of providing high-quality hospital and extended primary care in communities across the Kingdom.

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## Marketing and Communications Report

This year sees Rocketship with a new virtual home.

At the start of 2021-2022, an audit of marketing and communication activity was undertaken, and the development of the new platform has occurred simultaneously with fundamental work to improve content, build brand, engage with other health networks, and enhance the Rocketship reputation.

Rocketship's Medical Care Matters blog is sharing the stories of those involved in Rocketship. Examples of this include Dr Hempenstall talking about her story and Rocketship research, introductions of Morgan Lemin (allied health perspective), Dr Jill Benson (life in rural and remote medicine), and Dr Dan Manahan (rural and PIC experience).

*"I wanted to develop a career path for doctors who were actually working out in the remote islands in Tonga."*

- Dr Lisiate Ulufonua

Medical Care Matters also explored the needs of the Solomon Islands, the insights of Palau's Dr Stevenson Kuartei on the health needs of Pacific Island Countries while Dr Lisiate Ulufonua offered a Tongan perspective.

Collectively, these and other stories introduced new audiences to Rocketship and provided a better understanding of Pasifika health standards and needs, helped build brand, and drove traffic from social media to the website with a healthy click through rate to donations.

As we move out of the pandemic and strengthen our marketing and communication systems for internal and external communications, we will be in a more appropriate position to best leverage traditional media.

This new approach to data, communications and engagement is expected to inform the Rocketship Board about the needs of the community Rocketship serves while enhancing the brand for future work and drawing support and sponsorship.

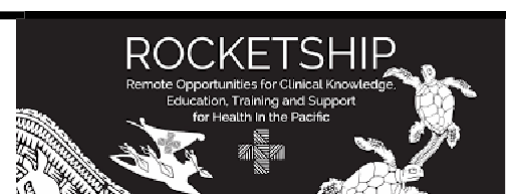
**David J. Gilchrist**

**Marketing and Communications Manager, Rocketship**

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*Please donate to Rocketship and help us in our work with Pacific Island Communities.*



You can find Rocketship at <https://rocket-ship.org/donation> .



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