



## CATHERINE HAMLIN FISTULA FOUNDATION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 10 DECEMBER 2018

#### CHAIR'S REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 JULY 2017 – 30 JUNE 2018

The past year has been one of consolidation and growth, with all our hardworking Staff at the Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation fully engaged and committed to our dedicated mission of funding the work to restore the health of women who have survived the horrendous - and preventable - childbirth injury: obstetric fistula.

In recognition of the importance of Catherine Hamlin in the work that we do, 2017/18 saw a change of name for Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (Australia) to the Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation with the full support and blessing of Catherine and the wider Hamlin family members. This will ensure that the legacy of Catherine and Reg will continue far into the future. The change of name was a seamless transition and our donors and supporters embraced the new name enthusiastically and positively.

January 2018 also saw a move to our new office located at Pyrmont. Considerable savings have been made on our annual rental costs with this move and it has also proved valuable in retaining and attracting high calibre staff. It has also opened opportunities for us to broaden our supporter base through both the residential areas in Pyrmont, but many of the boutique business located nearby. Our shop is still based at Turramurra and our accounts office is located there as well as all volunteer activities and co-ordination.

Achievements for the year have been many and varied, with a year on year growth in our fundraising. As can be seen from the financial report our income for the year was \$5.2m, up more than half a million dollars from 2016/17. Contributions to our projects for the year were \$4.05m, an increase of just under one million dollars from 2016/17.

Diversification and consolidation of our income streams has been critical to these outstanding achievements, with a focus on building a steady stream of regular givers, both retaining and acquiring new donors and a strong drive to acquire new high value donors and corporate partnerships.

### **Eradicating Fistula. Forever.**

#### **Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation**

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91% of our regular donors were retained and there was a 10% increase in these regular contributions and approx. 4,000 new donors were acquired. We have also made considerable progress with developing links within the medical profession and our medical donors have increased by over 250, taking this representative donor group to over 1200. The strategy of focusing on building links with individual philanthropists was very worthwhile with the number of major gifts doubling from the previous financial year.

A new appeal was introduced in September 2017 to raise funds for Reintegration and this proved a successful initiative raising in excess of \$100,000. The annual tax appeal was steady at just over \$1.2m and both the Christmas Prevention Appeal and Catherine's Birthday Appeal had increased income of approx. \$50,000 for each campaign.

Events have also been held to raise funds for CHFF and once again we held a High Tea for Hamlin across many states of Australia. We thank all those supporters who hosted and attended these events. Interest is falling away a little in the High Tea as the landscape is quite crowded now with similar events, so a new event was introduced for 2018 - Art for Hamlin. The inaugural event was held in September to October 2018 and was a great success. We also introduced a new Ethiopian Adventure in March 2018 to meet the requests of supporters who wanted to participate in the November adventure but found a commitment of 3 weeks too onerous. The 10-day adventure in March proved an appealing opportunity for some of our donors and will now become a regular event on the calendar.

Staff and board members have attended and spoken at many external events during the year including medical conferences; fundraising events organized by donors travelling to Ethiopia as part of our Great Ethiopian Adventure; and several fairs and other events where organisers have wished to support the work of Hamlin. A special mention must go to our Board member and Hamlin family member, Dr Alison Morgan. Alison is in high demand for media and other events as a world respected expert in maternal health and we are very privileged to have Alison as an active spokesperson and champion of the work of Hamlin in Ethiopia and the Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation here in Australia.

Carolyn Hardy our hardworking and dedicated CEO was able to accompany some of our high value donors to Ethiopia for the Midwifery College Graduation in July. This was a wonderful experience for our donors and enabled them to see firsthand how important their generosity is for the work not only of the hospital but also in the

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education and training of our wonderful young midwives. David Winterbottom, our Deputy Chair, together with Carolyn, was also able to attend PIM in Addis Ababa in May, where a very successful partners meeting was held, led by the Deputy CEO and Acting CEO, Tesfaye Mamo and the Board of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia. The leadership of HFE is strong and the hospital, clinics and midwifery college are all delivering on their annual goals and have in place a strong strategy to both continue the work of eradicating fistula throughout Ethiopia but also to ensure that other medical issues such as prolapse, and more complex cases are dealt with in a timely fashion. Rehabilitation and reintegration are also key pillars of the work and new programs and strategies to assist patients to return home safe and well are also being implemented. Plans to introduce a Masters in Midwifery in 2019 is welcome and funding is already committed from one of our corporate donors to ensure that those wishing to undertake the master's course will be supported.

Most importantly the Board and executive of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia are very committed to and respectful of the wonderful gift and legacy that Drs Catherine and Reg Hamlin have given to the women of Ethiopia. It is so pleasing to have such a dedicated and professional team now leading Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia where the first and only priority is to ensure that the work started by the Drs Hamlin is continued exactly as they wished, and that fistula is eradicated throughout Ethiopia.

Our support of the construction of a fistula hospital for Terrewode in Soroti, Uganda is ongoing, and we have met all our committed financial contributions to date. Construction is well underway with a projected opening of the hospital in mid-2019. We are hoping that our financial obligations will be fully met by first quarter 2019. We are particularly grateful to our many donors both current and new, who recognized the importance of replicating the Hamlin model of care beyond the boundaries of Ethiopia and who agreed to support this project.

CHFF has strong relationships with many of the Hamlin partners around the world, all who are making vital contributions to Hamlin in Ethiopia. It is particularly pleasing to note that we welcomed as members of CHFF during 2018, Errold Paynter from the NZ Hamlin Trust; Malcolm Hewitt from the UK Hamlin Trust and Robert Tong, David Knox and Doug Marr from Hamlin Fistula Australia.

Staff of the Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation are the lifeblood of our organisation. With a small team of 6.5 FTE, led by an outstanding CEO, they work tirelessly, enthusiastically and passionately for the women of Ethiopia.

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Their professionalism and attention to detail is reflected in our outstanding financial results for 2017/18 and I want to thank them most sincerely for all their hard work and commitment.

Finally, but by no means least, I wish to thank my fellow Board of Directors. We are a small Board of volunteers, but each Board member has provided both the organization and me personally with incredible support and commitment during the year. David Winterbottom, Pip Ellis, Fergus Hanson and Dr Alison Morgan have all contributed far beyond what is normally required of board members and they, together with our marvellous donors and the wonderful dedicated staff and Board at HFE, make the work of CHFF meaningful and powerful.

We look forward to the coming year as it is a very special one for the Hamlin organization - both Catherine's 95th birthday year and 60years since Reg and Catherine first went to work in Ethiopia. May 2019 will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and affirm all that they have contributed to better the lives of over 55,000 women across Ethiopia and we are so privileged to be able to help in this work, through the wonderful generosity of all our donors.

Thank you,

**Julie White**  
**Chair of the Board**  
**Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation**

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