

A letter from the Chairman

WELCOME TO THE NEW FORMAT Newsletter of Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited (HFA). In previous years HFA has sent a quarterly newsletter to supporters but for the foreseeable future Newsletters will be produced as required.

In this edition is the final CEO report of Mark Bennett written at the conclusion of his 7 years working with Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (HFE). Mark and Annette Bennett worked for 10 years in Egypt with the Church Missionary Society before moving, with their four children, to Addis Ababa in 2005. Mark served as the Chief Executive Officer of HFE and was instrumental in the expansion of the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital. Annette Bennett translated the vision of the Hamlins into reality, with campus buildings, a world class curriculum, motivated staff with needed resources, rural students, graduates and a college, the Hamlin College of Midwives. The Bennett family returned to Australia in July 2012 and are now living back in Sydney.

During the course of 2012 there have been a number of media reports about HFA so I am glad of the opportunity to provide you with accurate information in the form of the Frequently Asked Questions included in this Newsletter.

HFA was established by Dr Catherine Hamlin AC, her family and friends in 1996. The generosity of donors has enabled HFA to provide funds for the massive expansion in the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital including the establishment of regional centres and the creation of the Hamlin College of Midwives.

From 1996 until mid 2012 HFA was the authorised representative in Australia of Dr Hamlin and Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia. In July 2012 Dr Hamlin and others established a new company in Australia called Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (Australia) Limited (HFEA) and this new company now represents Dr Hamlin and HFE in Australia. The postal address, web site address and phone number of HFEA are: PO Box 5066 Turrumurra NSW 2074, www.hamlin.org.au and 02 9440 7001.

Dr Hamlin has asked for all future support of HFE to be sent to HFEA instead of HFA. Please note HFA does not endorse HFEA. Information on HFEA is available if you go to the government web site www.abr.business.gov.au and search for "Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia Australia".

Dr Hamlin has advised "HFE has now resolved that it shall not accept from HFA any donations received by HFA on and from 1 January 2013". This is a puzzling decision when active fund raising is encouraged around the world. The Directors of HFA know of supporters who prefer to continue to donate to HFA instead of HFEA. HFA will continue to accept donations and bequests. In this Newsletter is a list of the objects of HFA and you will see that while these objects specifically mention the provision of support for the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital they also include other ways of assisting women suffering from obstetric fistulas. The Directors of HFA will ensure all money received by HFA after 1 January 2013 is applied in accordance with the wishes of the donor and consistent with the objects of HFA.

One of the many good things about HFA is that donated funds are not spent on administration or fundraising costs. Interest earned on funds held in transit continue to pay the whole of the administrative and fundraising costs and also provide funding for our important work. With a view to reducing expenses wherever possible, the HFA office will no longer be open every day Monday to Friday. All employees of HFA work part time and therefore the office will generally

only be open two days each week (usually Tuesday and Friday). Please leave a voicemail message or send an email if you wish to make contact on a day when the office is closed.

Thank you to the many people who have supported HFA over the last 16 years. I hope you will continue to do so but understand your interests may have changed since you first contacted us. Included in this mailing is the opportunity for you to let the HFA office know if you

would prefer to have your name removed from our mailing list.

With my best wishes.



Dr Robert Tong AM
Chairman, Hamlin Fistula Australia
Limited

2012 Report of the Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia Chief Executive Officer

Since June 2005 when I joined the organisation, there has been enormous growth and development of our services and capacity. To make this possible our International Hamlin Fistula Partners have stood close to us as we develop our plans. We have also won the support of significant donors such as USAid and AusAID and Women's Hope International, who now make significant contributions to the cost of the services that we offer. Moving from an organisation with one main operational site, to one which manages five regional Fistula units, a rehabilitation centre and a college to

train and deploy/ supervise midwives in rural locations is a significant challenge. Our main site has become the "Head Office" with supporting service departments such as HR, Engineering, Purchasing, Financial Planning and Management, Project Management, PR, Medical reporting services and Social work and Hospital Chaplaincy. With these eight locations and to date twelve rural clinics with deployed Midwives, we now have close to 600 employees. This growth and change does not happen without challenges and hard work. I want to thank all our team for catching the vision and their enthusiasm for being part of the "Hamlin" family.

Progress on our Key Objectives in brief:

i. Compassionate treatment

This year we have employed a social worker and Hospital Chaplain to complement the care given by other members of our team. We have reviewed all aspects of our post operative management and evaluated our activities to restore continence as well as psychosocial aspects of the care we offer.

ii. Training We have sent staff to Sudan and Afghanistan as well as received Doctors and Nurses from many other countries. Our nursing staff have also participated in research activities including areas of post operative incontinence management.

iii. In prevention we have carried out evaluation meetings with our outreach workers to refocus our activities for better outcomes in patient location. We have worked with our first batch of deployed midwives and sent out our second batch, so that we now have 12 rural locations. In all of this we see the enormous challenge of improving maternal health and we renew our commitment to making a difference and preventing the injury of Obstetric Fistula.



Bennett Family when they arrived in Ethiopia



iv. Rehabilitation work especially through Desta Mender has made great progress with the success of the Juniper café and conference facility. Many Desta Mender women are now living independently, some working in their own small businesses outside our facility. This transition to an organization that offers training in livelihood activities and encourages self reliance for the women we serve is a challenging process. We have a new manager for our site who is committed with her team to seeing women build their own future, with guidance and assistance.

v. Resources We have worked with friends in the USA to set up “Hamlin Fistula USA” to represent our organization there and raise interest and funding for our work. We have also developed our financial/ management reports with assistance of a consultant from Australia. We have extended our Bahir Dar Facility, completed Solar Hot water in Metu and commenced a project for renewable/ green use of resources with Addis Ababa University.

Mark Bennett
Chief Executive Officer
Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia 2005-2012
June 2012



Bennett Family now



Frequently Asked Questions

What is HFA?

Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited (HFA) is an Australian company which was established in 1996 to raise money for treatment, prevention and raising awareness of obstetric fistulas. The detailed objects of the company are set out in clause 2 of the Memorandum of Association. The text of this clause is included in this *Newsletter*.

Donations to HFA are allowable deductions for Australian income tax purposes.

What payments will HFA make to HFE in the future?

The Directors of HFA have approved a schedule of payments to provide further grants to HFE of more than \$23 million in future years. Subject to the provision of standard financial and operational information, payments will be made to HFE six monthly in advance, in January and July each year.

What money has HFA paid for HFE?

Payments (in US dollars) made by HFA for HFE since July 2011 include:

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 08 Jan 2013 | 1,044,200.00 |
| 28 Dec 2012 | 516,100.13 |
| 17 Sep 2012 | 556,177.30 |
| 04 Sep 2012 | 60,850.00 |
| 05 Jun 2012 | 500,000.00 |
| 08 May 2012 | 99,595.04 |
| 03 Apr 2012 | 41,590.05 |
| 03 Apr 2012 | 8,671.37 |
| 03 Apr 2012 | 36,497.92 |
| 10 Feb 2012 | 10,274.00 |
| 06 Jan 2012 | 175,590.79 |
| 06 Jan 2012 | 151,625.64 |
| 03 Jan 2012 | 18,322.13 |
| 23 Dec 2011 | 64,053.00 |
| 14 Dec 2011 | 18,084.00 |
| 01 Dec 2011 | 62,186.66 |
| 01 Dec 2011 | 58,472.46 |
| 23 Nov 2011 | 17,554.00 |
| 03 Nov 2011 | 10,049.90 |
| 05 Oct 2011 | 17,822.00 |
| 19 Sep 2011 | 26,005.29 |
| 04 Aug 2011 | 162,074.88 |
| 04 Aug 2011 | 250,256.31 |
| 29 Jul 2011 | 38,438.47 |
| 26 Jul 2011 | 442,450.16 |

What money can Dr Hamlin and HFE access to support the work in Ethiopia?

Subject to Australian taxation and other laws, all money held by HFA is available to be spent by Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia.

Dr Catherine Hamlin, Mr Richard Hamlin and other trustees

appointed by them control Hamlin Fistula International Foundation (HFIF), a Swiss foundation which has assets totaling \$11 million (12.1 million Swiss francs). To see a copy of the HFIF 2011 balance sheet go to our web site (www.hamlinfistula.org.au).

The other Hamlin international partners in NZ, UK, USA, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and Japan also hold money for Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia. The Fistula Foundation, a separate body in USA also holds funds designated specifically for HFE.

Does HFA get money from the Australian Government?

In mid 2011 AusAID and HFA signed a contract for Australian Government funding for 3 years (2011-2013) plus the possibility for an additional 2 years (2014-2015) subject to a midterm review. The whole of this money is for use by HFE and none is for HFA. On 9 August 2012 Dr Hamlin wrote to AusAID saying the Trustees of HFE *"have resolved not to call on the remainder of the current tranche of AusAID funding, nor to call on future tranches in the current AusAID contract with Hamlin Fistula Australia"*.

In accordance with the request of the Trustees of HFE, HFA and AusAID have terminated the contract for the following grants from AusAID:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance owing from 2011 | \$265,000 |
| Approved grant for 2012 | \$1,091,348 |
| Approved grant for 2013 | \$1,079,078 |
| Year 4 (subject to confirmation) | \$1,121,532 |
| Year 5 (subject to confirmation) | \$1,159,058 |

It remains a puzzle that HFE does not wish to receive more than \$4.7 million of Australian government money. To see a copy of Dr Hamlin's letter go to our web site (www.hamlinfistula.org.au).

Does HFA require people to endorse the Christian faith before receiving treatment or accepting donations?

Since 1996 HFA has been working with people of all religions and of no religion to finance the work of Dr Catherine Hamlin. HFA has never suggested any change to this long standing arrangement.

What has caused the relationship difficulties between HFA and Dr Hamlin?

The current relationship difficulties between HFA and Dr Hamlin exist because of the removal, in early 2012, of the majority of the Trustees of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia and all the senior executive personnel of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital and the Hamlin College of Midwives. The Directors of HFA believed they had an obligation to notify HFA supporters about these very significant matters so they issued a Statement on 27 March 2012. To see the Statement go to our web site (www.hamlinfistula.org.au).

To learn more about the work of Dr Hamlin in Ethiopia, go to the web site of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia which is: www.hamlinfistula.org



Our Objects

The objects of Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited are:

(a) to take all such measures, perform all such tasks and be engaged in all such activities as thought desirable

(i) for the treatment and relief of persons suffering from obstetric fistulas of the female birth passages and for their convalescence and rehabilitation;

(ii) for the promotion of research into the causes treatment and prevention of obstetric fistula disease;

(iii) for providing opportunities for medical and nursing students and doctors and nurses to have clinical experience in the care of fistula patients;

(iv) for the provision at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital Ethiopia or other hospital or facility in Ethiopia of appropriate medical nursing and other care for carrying out the objects of the association;

(v) for the provision at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital Ethiopia of appropriate buildings equipment and facilities for carrying out the objects of the association;

(vi) to assist persons to seek treatment for obstetric fistulas and where appropriate to continue that assistance while treatment is received and on discharge.

(b) to engage in all such activities of whatever nature as may be thought desirable in connection with carrying out of the objects of the association specified in paragraph (a).

(c) to engage in any of the activities specified in paragraph (a) in any country declared by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to be a developing country in relation to a medical condition or disease for the purpose of providing relief to the people of that country after the association has resolved that it is no longer practicable or necessary to pursue its objects in relation to obstetric fistulas.

**HAMLIN
FISTULA
AUSTRALIA**



Thank You James

Mr James Grainger took up the position of Executive Officer of HFA in June 2007 and relinquished that post in March 2012. James brought to the position clarity of thought, focused energy and great enthusiasm. James and his wife Margaret had been long-time supporters of Dr Hamlin's work in Ethiopia and this appointment enabled James to be involved in a direct 'hands on' way. The work involved many speaking engagements, representations to government, managing the finances as well as a busy office. During his period, donations to the fistula work increased significantly, there were several visits to the various hospital establishments in Ethiopia and much sound advice and encouragement given to the management team in Ethiopia while they were overseeing the development of essential infrastructure in Ethiopia.

At the Board level, James was a superb Executive Officer. He provided very full reports to the Board so that policy decisions could be made with all the facts available. The Directors and Members of HFA thank James for his significant support for the work of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia.

Changes in Directors

In mid 2012 three long serving Directors of HFA stood down from this role. The Directors and Members of HFA give thanks for the service of the following:

David Barnsdall OAM



Mr David Barnsdall OAM was one of those who established HFA in 1996 and served as a Director from the commencement of the company until he decided to step down in July 2012. David's business and accounting experience and skills were made freely available to Dr Hamlin, the Board and the company as a whole.

His years as chair were characterised by firm and reliable leadership. On 7 July 2012 the members of HFA passed the following resolution as an expression of appreciation for David:

It was resolved that this meeting records with gratitude, not only the contribution of all of the individual Directors of the Company over the sixteen years of its existence, but places on record the exceptional assistance given by David Barnsdall:

Since the Incorporation of the Hamlin Company in Australia, David Barnsdall has been first, the Deputy and Alternate Chairman, and then the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

He has given tirelessly of his skills as an experienced Chartered Accountant and business manager, without ever looking for any reward. Moreover his quiet manner and wise guidance, in the development of almost every aspect of the Australian Hamlin Fund has contributed toward the outstanding success of the Fund and the extensive support that it has been able to give to the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital.

His advice and assistance led to the establishing of the Hamlin Fistula International Foundation. This Foundation has attracted capital gifts and loans from major donors. It is already providing an income of over \$A500,000 each year toward the running costs of the Hospital and has the potential to ensure a substantial part of the running costs of the Hospital, in future years.

More recently, David had a major role in helping to establish the Hamlin Fistula Trust in the USA and gave guidance and help when the New Zealand Hamlin Trust was being formed, earlier.

David has been a constant supporter of the work of the Hospital. He has always been available to assist whether it was early in the morning, or late in the evening. Moreover he was a faithful advocate for the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, and would speak readily, about the work, at public meetings and privately, to whoever would listen.



Left to right: Mr James Grainger ■ Dr Leon Clark ■ Mr David Barnsdall OAM ■ Mr Mark Bennett ■ Mrs Annette Bennett ■ Dr Gary Sykes ■ Dr Robert Tong AM ■ Mr Ridley Smith

Leon Clark



Dr Leon Clark joined the Board of HFA in October 1998. His experience as a doctor and then hospital administrator helped the Board to understand the many pressures on people and resources in Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia. Leon's cheerful insights were always helpful in Board deliberations. The Board is sorry

that work demands do not allow him time to continue on the Board for the present.

Ridley Smith



Mr Ridley Smith was invited to join the Board of HFA in August 2003 having been consultant architect to Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia. Much of the built environment of the hospital campus in Addis Ababa bears the creative input of Ridley. He journeyed to Ethiopia on many occasions and enjoyed the



confidence of Dr Hamlin who was mostly willing to accept his suggestions for building. The Board thanks Ridley for his willing service over many years.

In July 2012 the members of HFA elected four new Directors of the company. Each of the new Directors has a long standing personal association with Dr Hamlin and her work. The new Directors are:

Professor Eddie Anderson
Dr David Knox
Mrs Rae Newman
Mr John Scott



Reply Slip

Please accept this donation for the objects of Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited administering the Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund

Post to: **PO Box 965 Wahroonga NSW 2076**

Donations over \$2 are allowable Income Tax Deductions
DGR 900 484 487

Title Mr Mrs Miss Ms Dr Rev Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Phone _____

Email _____

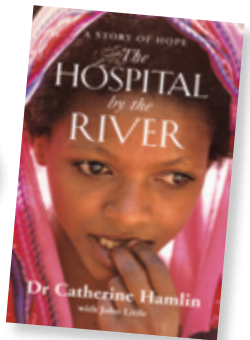
Cheque attached \$ _____

- ☐ Please email my receipt (email address shown above)
- ☐ Please send me suitable wording for a Bequest
- ☐ Please remove my name from your mailing list

I would like to order:

- ☐ **Hospital by the River** - \$23
by John Little
- ☐ **Catherine's Gift** - \$23
by John Little
- ☐ Tea Towel - \$15
- ☐ Jubilee Key Ring - \$6
- ☐ Golden Jubilee Pin - \$5

[price includes GST & Postage]



OR Please debit the sum of \$ _____ to my

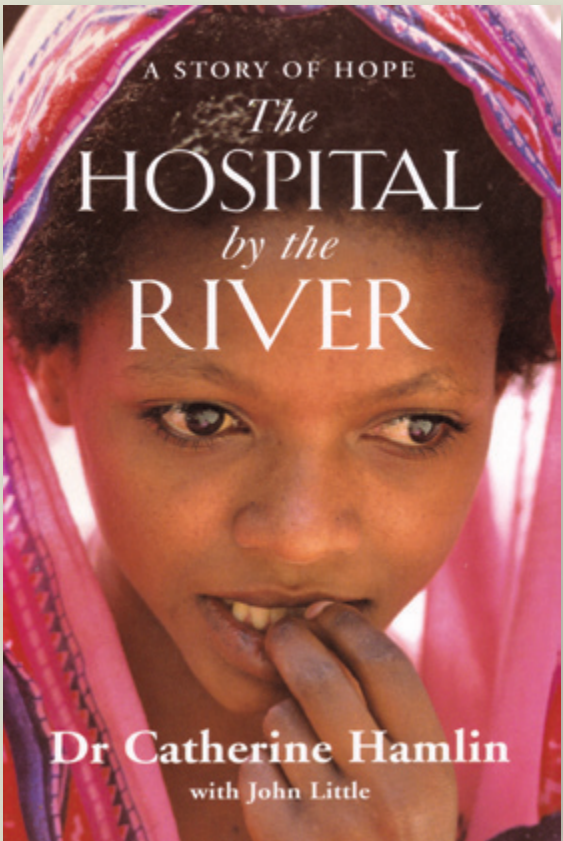
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

CCV* _____ Expiry Date _____ / _____

*three digit security code on the signature strip of your card

Name on Card _____

Signature _____



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