



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT AGM 26 NOVEMBER 2023

I am very proud to present the inaugural chairperson's report for the Dr Rose McGready Foundation. This incredible Foundation was established in 2022 to support the lifesaving work of Professor Rose McGready in providing medical services and care to mothers and babies on the Thai-Myanmar border with the Boarder Health Foundation (BHF). On hearing from her of the need for funding to support this vital work, four of Rose's friends have volunteered their time and services to establish this Foundation. It is remarkable what the Foundation has been able to achieve its inaugural year.



On review, I am pleased to report that in 2023 the Foundation has furthered its goals of relieving poverty and advancing the social and public welfare of underprivileged families in the Tak province in Thailand and the state of Kayin in Myanmar. It has been my pleasure to chair the board of this Foundation during its inaugural year and I look forward to continuing to work alongside my fellow board members into 2024.

Overview

Following the establishment and launch of the foundation in late 2022, 2023 proved to be a challenging but ultimately fruitful year. Together with my fellow directors Helen Shephard, Erin Broderick and Sarah Carter, we have successfully registered the Foundation with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, obtained tax deductible recipient status through the Australian Taxation Office, obtained the necessary fundraising permits in all states and territories in Australia, and launched the Foundation's online platform and social media presence. The measure of this year's success, however, ultimately lies in the impact that the Foundation has had in providing funds to support and further the important work of its namesake, Professor Rose McGready, thanks to the commitment and generosity of its donors.

Launch Event

The Foundation held several fundraising events in the past twelve months, including the official launch event hosted at the Women's College at the University of Sydney on 9 May 2023. Those who attended the launch heard Professor Rose McGready's powerful interview with Jacinta Tynan and were treated to a performance by a delightful group of young Karen dancers who provided attendees with a glimpse into their beautiful culture and heritage. Thanks to the tireless efforts of all involved and to the support of the Women's College, the launch event was a great success and was instrumental in seeing more than \$120,000.00 (AUD) raised in the 2022-2023 year.

I would like to personally thank and acknowledge all those involved in making the launch event a success, including my fellow board members who graciously volunteered their time and worked tirelessly to make the plans a reality, the Women's College of the University of Sydney for the hosting the event, our wonderful volunteers and the Members of the Australian Karen Organisation. I would also like to extend special thanks to Erin Broderick, without whose extensive marketing expertise and incredible hard work the launch would not have been the success that it was.

Fundraising and Expenditure

In this inaugural year. The Foundation received more \$ 120,000 in donations. In accordance with the Foundation's objects, and with careful consideration of the needs reported by Professor Rose McGready, the Board has applied the donations in 2023 as follows:

1. \$1,700.00 was applied to fund the Public Health Awareness Campaign for local clinics on the Thai-Myanmar border in, as part of the World Malaria Day 2023 campaign; and
2. \$20,000.00 was applied towards funding and training 9 midwives working to provide lifesaving medical services in local clinics on the Thai-Myanmar border.

The impact that these funds have had, and the importance of the midwives and those involved in the Public Health Awareness Campaign on the ground, cannot be understated.

Midwives



It is Professor Rose McGready's goal to provide education and training to local midwives, which will in turn provide the best and most sustainable long-term health outcomes for the community on the Thai-Myanmar border.



Midwives routinely manage and successfully mitigate delivery complications that cause the most maternal deaths globally: postpartum haemorrhages, seizures in labour, and bacterial infections in labour and after delivery. In addition to this work, Professor Rose McGready's team provides comprehensive lifesaving training to the community about contraceptive methods, and provides important services administering contraceptive pills, injections, implants and intrauterine devices free of charge.

"Truthfully, I am so proud, and I am honoured to be part of this maternal and child health team. I have been working here as an obstetric doctor for more than a decade and I see the positive impact of our work every day." - **Dr Aye Min**

The Future and Beyond



In no small part due to the work of Professor Rose McGready and her colleagues, by 2020, malaria had been effectively controlled and eliminated in pregnancy cases in the Thai-Myanmar region. Sadly, many people in the region were forced to flee their homes as a consequence of the Myanmar Coup of February 2021. As thousands of displaced people came to occupy informal housing in jungle camps on the Thai border, their exposure to mosquitoes and mosquito-borne illnesses including malaria increased, and a new wave of malaria infections resulted. Women and children are particularly vulnerable in these circumstances of conflict, and the rise in malaria cases presented an increase in the risk of death and adverse outcomes in pregnant women, particularly where there are delays or issues preventing access to healthcare treatment and services.

The work of Professor Rose McGready and the BHF continues to be vital to the region, and so the Foundation's work in providing financial support to enable this work to continue and expand must continue.

Priorities for 2024 – 2025

Looking to the future, and to the guidance and insight provided to the Board of the Foundation by Professor Rose McGready herself, the Foundation has the following priorities and goals for the next two years:

- **Midwives** – we aim to maintain wages funding for midwives employed through the Borderland Health Foundation in Thailand, allocating this support across 3 levels of competency (assistant, junior and senior) in alignment with good clinical practice and resource management. Funding of this nature by the Foundation commenced June 2023 and is ongoing.
- **Public Health Campaigns** – we aim to promote relevant international awareness days for women, malaria, and breastfeeding by using community-based outreach methods to deliver key information that supports healthcare in the target population and region.
- **Special Needs** – we aim to reserve 10% of funds received by the Foundation, to be applied towards healthcare and treatment needs in special individual cases, where a mother and/or child is in desperate need of medical treatment or nutrition support.

Our Board

The Board of the Foundation continues in their commitment to raising funds to relieve poverty and advance the social and public welfare of underprivileged families, and in particular women and children, on the Thai-Myanmar Border.



Karen Fogarty
Director



Helen Shephard
Director/Secretary



Erin Broderick
Director



Sarah Carter
Director & Public Officer

In 2022-2023, the Foundation held meetings as follows:

| Item | Meeting Date (FY 2022 – 2023) | Meeting Nature |
|------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 22 July 2022 | Working Group Meeting |
| 2 | 18 August 2022 | The Board Meeting |
| 3 | 18 August 2022 | Member's Meeting |
| 4 | 15 September 2022 | The Board Meeting |
| 5 | 20 October 2022 | The Board Meeting |
| 6 | 16 November 2022 | The Board Meeting |
| 7 | 24 November 2022 | The Board Meeting |
| 8 | 8 December 2022 | The Board Meeting |
| 9 | 12 January 2023 | The Board Meeting |
| 10 | 19 January 2023 | The Board Meeting |
| 11 | 2 February 2023 | The Board Meeting |
| 12 | 16 February 2023 | The Board Meeting |
| 13 | 9 March 2023 | The Board Meeting |
| 14 | 23 March 2023 | The Board Meeting |
| 15 | 30 March 2023 | The Board Meeting |
| 16 | 27 April 2023 | The Board Meeting |
| 17 | 18 May 2023 | The Board Meeting |
| 18 | 25 May 2023 | The Board Meeting |
| 19 | 8 June 2023 | The Board Meeting |
| 20 | 22 June 2023 | The Board Meeting |

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|------------------------|----|
| Board Meeting Count | 18 |
| Working Group Meeting | 1 |
| Member's Meeting Count | 1 |

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the wonderful efforts of all who have volunteered their time to support the lifesaving and internationally-renowned work of my friend, Professor Rose McGready. Rose continues to be a great inspiration to me in her humble and dedicated service to the Karen people, and her passion to cause stable and long-term improvement in the health and wellbeing of their communities.

I would also like to acknowledge the following people, who as reputable academics in the medical field offered their compliments and recognition of Professor Rose McGready's charitable initiatives and work. They are Professor Kevin C Kain (University of Toronto), Professor Caroline Homer (University of Technology Sydney), Professor Julie Anne Simpson (University of Melbourne), and Professor Ric Price (University of Oxford). Your support in this respect has been invaluable and has had an immense positive impact on the Foundation.

As a young Foundation, we are wholly dependent on the Board members who volunteer their time, skills, expertise and energy to see the work of the Foundation occur. I consider myself privileged to work with this wonderful group of incredible, talented, generous, and dedicated women, and it is an honour to be named alongside them as we strive to advance the charitable work of the Doctor Rose McGready Foundation.

I look forward, with great hope and excitement, to seeing what we are able to accomplish as a Foundation in the years ahead.



Karen Fogarty
CHAIRPERSON,
DR ROSE MCGREADY FOUNDATION LIMITED