

Dashlyn Chee

Dashlyn Chee decided to become a health worker when she was just 15 years old because she wanted to help her people. Born in Papua New Guinea's Morobe Province, Dash obtained her Diploma of Health Extension Training in Madang and has since worked with hospitals and remote health centres across East New Britain and New Ireland. In her current role as Clinical HEO at Namatanai Rural Hospital, she oversees the operating theatre, conducts tubal ligation operations and supports clinical staff in everything from patient diagnoses, to emergency treatment and reporting. She is a tireless advocate for hospital infrastructure and much-needed medical supplies. Prior to this, Dash was employed as Health Project Officer at Namatanai Hospital with non-profit organisation Australian Doctors International. Described as 'a powerhouse of energy and enthusiasm' by her colleagues, Dash set up the hospital's operating theatre, provided clinical training, emergency assistance, advocacy and support for volunteer doctors visiting from Australia. Dash has also held positions as Clinical HEO at the Lihir mining Medical Centre, Nonga Base Hospital and Kavieng General Hospital. She says the challenges of working in a rural setting in PNG are many: At Namatanai there's often no power or water supply; medical supplies, hospital equipment and services are limited, and there hasn't been a permanent Medical Officer onsite for six years. It's those same challenges which Dash says motivates her to continue her work advocating for, in her words, 'the desperately needed, quality care and services my people deserve.'