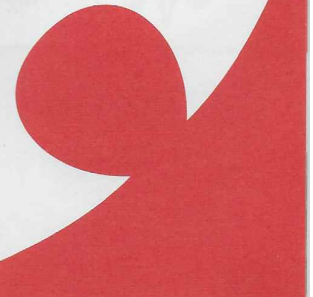


Thalassaemia & Sickle Cell Society of Australia

Unifying Support with Genetics



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Thalassaemia Australia Summer 2016 – 2017 Volume 11 Issue 22



Thalassemia in Nepal

To say Nepal has been going through some very difficult times is an enormous understatement.

Apart from being one of the poorest and most over populated countries in the world, in April 2015, the country suffered a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake, killing in excess of 8,000 people, injuring 17,000 and displacing 500,000.

Add to this mix the fact that there is no insurance and very few jobs to begin with. Then there was some kind of political collapse, leaving the already broken country with out leadership and some kind of conflict and demonstrations (that I don't understand) causing India to close its borders cutting off supplies of all kinds of essential items, including fuel and gas. So now there is no heating no transport and people are stripping the forest to provide fuel for heating and cooking. I think you get the picture.

The transfusion centre was damaged by the quake and on the day, all the children were safely evacuated on to the street by the staff with minimal interruption to the transfusions. I say children, as you see, very few people with Thalassemia in Nepal get past nineteen or twenty. The centre and its staff are completely funded by the fundraising efforts of a fabulous woman called Wendy Pinker, from her home in England. All the children receive their

Transfusions, thanks to her efforts. When I decided to get involved in 2011, I soon learned that only a few of them were getting chelation therapy, and were very ill. I decided to fundraise for the chelation medication and have been doing so ever since.

My contact there is Durga Patrak, he chooses the most poor and the most ill to receive a few months treatment at a time so as to share the limited funds around. A very difficult and unenviable task indeed! Over the years I have raised about 13 thousand dollars with market night, shopping vip night, selling handmade jewellery from Nepal and a collection tin at Safeway Endeavour Hills. I haven't had time with my work commitments to do any fundraisers this year however clients and friends and family continuously donate money and I save it all up and send it to Durga for distribution. In May I was able to sent four thousand dollars. I have about one thousand dollars saved up in the designated bank account I keep for them.

If any on is interested in assisting with donations for these very needy children you can call me on 0409828770 or email me on jaydascoli@hotmail.com