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Care of Southern Region

**Re: Recent treatment of four Tongan children with Rheumatic Heart Disease.**

Once again, I am writing to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the ROMAC members for their continuous generous assistance in recently treating four Tonga children with rheumatic heart disease.

Four more children from Tonga, Ms Nanuma He'ehau, Ms Hola Takapu Hau, Ms 'Elisi Halafuka and Ms Lu'isa Mafi, were very fortunate to benefit from the generosity of ROMAC. Ms Nanuma He'ehau and Ms Hola Takapu Hau got treated in Starship, New Zealand while Ms 'Elisi Halafuka and Ms Lu'isa Mafi were treated at the Royal Children Hospital, Melbourne Australia. All had returned and in very good health.

In our attempt to meet the needs for cardiac surgery especially for Valvular surgery, we are inviting the Operation Open Heart Program from Australia to make a regular visit to Tonga starting this year. I am sure this will allow ROMAC to treat children with other medical needs.

Once again, I thank ROMAC and all its members for their goodwill, donation of funds and the support shown to the children and carers during their stay in Australia and New Zealand.

May God continue to bless ROMAC members and your mission, give you all the strengths and means to continue this noble work in trying to meet the medical needs of children throughout the world.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Viliami Ta'u Tangi  
Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health

