



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **High profile Paediatric Surgeon trains Cuba's best**

In a recent trip to Cuba and Colombia a team of Australian doctors from the **Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation** lectured surgeons and treated patients with complex urological conditions, treated 21 patients, gave 8 lectures and participated in 2 symposia, as part of the teaching program.

The visit was not only to treatment children in desperate need of specialist surgery, but to improve the radiology investigations, while contributing to two conferences during which dozens of doctors from Latin America participated to equip the local medical staff with improved skills to carry on the work in the future.

This was the seventh trip to Cuba and the first, but not the last, to Colombia. Since 2003 **Kind Cuts for Kids** has treated over 38 children with the complex anomaly of bladder exstrophy in Cuba, and hundreds of others, with the help of the Cuban medical staff. Not to mention the rest of the 2000+ kids treated during over 70 visits to 17 countries since **Kind Cuts for Kids'** inception in 1993.

Much media attention has been given to the great collaboration between the Australian and Cuban surgeons, while in Cuba, with interviews on both national television and radio. **Kind Cuts for Kids Chairman, Professor Paddy Dewan**, has been recruiting surgeons from around the world, including Latin America, to assist children in less fortunate countries to be able to deliver specialty medical education. He says that this allows patients to be treated in the caring environment of their own family, where the dollars spent can exponentially benefit the children, compared to if spent on bringing them to Australian for treatment.

*"During the trip to Latin America, many children were treated; and many surgeons and radiologists were educated. New techniques and more efficient methods of treatment were taught. A young boy with incontinence, who had a four hour operation, was home*



*within two days, whereas he would have stayed 4 weeks, if sent to Australia. The cost of his care alone, if transferred, would have exceeded the cost of the two week visit to Cuba and Colombia. Importantly, the already-stressed Australian hospital resources are not taxed by the care being given in the country of origin, and hundreds of kids are helped via the education of the developing country medical staff. Sending doctors who teach seems to be the way to meet the huge need” said Professor Dewan.*

*“Operating on children in developing countries, while teaching the techniques, is like teaching the hungry how to grow the crop, rather than giving them a bag of grain.”*

### **About Kind Cuts for Kids**

Since 1993 the **Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation** has worked with government and non-government organizations, in many countries, to provide outreach care to children in need of surgical and medical services.

The goal of the Foundation is to improve medical services to children in developing countries. It aims to advance health care by education, demonstration and skill transfer to the local health care professionals.

Thus far **Kind Cuts for Kids** has treated over 2,000 kids during over 70 visits to 17 countries. For more information see [www.kindcutsforkids.net](http://www.kindcutsforkids.net)

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