



Barbara May
Foundation

SAVE THE MOTHER.

SAVE THE WORLD.

Annual Report

for the year ended
30 June **2021**



Message from Michael Sharpe AO Chairman

The Foundation continues to fund quality maternity care and fistula treatment for vulnerable women in many African countries despite the pandemic and civil unrest in Ethiopia. The following highlights occurred this financial year as we sought to meet the challenges.

♥ Donations received amounted to \$2.87M. These included special donations to supply food for pregnant women in The Afar where drought, locusts and the influx of refugees from neighbouring provinces resulted in many pregnant women presenting malnourished.

♥ The BMF-funded hospitals in Africa continued to operate efficiently without volunteers thanks to local doctors and midwives trained in past years. While Andrew was able to visit Africa twice, it was encouraging that modern technology allowed him to supervise both fistula surgery and hospital operations from Australia. However, it will be good to have volunteers back in Africa when the COVID-19 threat has abated.

♥ The new maternity hospital in South Sudan opened in June 2021.

♥ Andrew's book *A Doctor in Africa* was launched at the Sydney Opera House in April where Andrew was interviewed by the co-author, Pat Kennedy. Interest in the book has been high. Its launch has led to media and speaking engagements creating valuable awareness of the Foundation. Andrew will soon publish a fistula text book and a new FIGO training manual.

Many thanks to Andrew's and Valerie's teams in Africa who have worked without volunteers and have had to cope with

the dangers of the pandemic. Our love goes to Valerie as she sees her beloved Afar people struggle with ever greater challenges.

Thanks to all our donors who have continued to be generous in uncertain times. Many of our donors also give valuable advice and are as much partners as donors. Thanks to our directors and Jo Crowley, our General Manager.

During the year Bishop George Browning, a founding Director, notified us that he will retire at our 2021 Annual Meeting. We will miss his wise advice, his prayers at the opening of our meetings and his devotion to the interests of his sister, Valerie. George's son, Richard Browning, will replace him.

Maryanne Ayers resigned as a director in June 2021. Maryanne is a midwife and had visited Africa during her term of office. Maryanne was one of our best fundraisers and devoted to the cause of the women of Africa. We will miss her.

This annual report sets out what we have achieved and I believe we continue to be a blessing to many of the most vulnerable people on earth. We thank God for the continued blessing of our endeavours.



Message from Dr Andrew Browning AM Medical Director

I'm a surgeon and clinician and I love to be with patients, but over the last year, I have spent many more hours in front of a screen rather than in the wards and theatres. Despite all the challenges of the last 12 months, we have been blessed that the Barbara May Foundation has not only survived, but flourished.

Public speaking engagements are critically important to us as we raise awareness and seek financial support. We missed many vital opportunities during the pandemic when lockdowns prevented public gatherings. However, in between lockdowns we had many face-to-face presentations.

It is so much more satisfying speaking to people in person about the women we serve and what we all can do to help. During lockdowns we have been presenting on Zoom and I think everyone agrees it's a distant second best.

I was very grateful to be able to visit Africa twice in the last financial year. Normally I would visit more frequently but due to travel restrictions it was not possible, but it was a joy to be back on those rare occasions. The staff in our hospitals are doing remarkably well. We were able to provide them with personal protection equipment (PPE) and although some staff did contract Covid we are thankful that none became seriously ill. At the time of writing, the more virulent Delta

variant is spreading across Uganda and Tanzania causing not only difficulties for individuals, but also to the entire health infrastructure. When not in Africa I am doing some training via Zoom webinars to surgeons from all over Africa! Several of these surgeons have increased their fistula work despite many difficulties.

We are very excited to be partnering with the Lutheran Churches of the USA and South Sudan to play a crucial part in the opening and operating of the new maternity unit in Juba. We have one of our wonderful volunteers assisting there, Sr Marianne from The Netherlands and Sr Fiona from Australia has recently joined her.

We look forward to the coming year, buoyed by the expansion and hopeful that the rural network in Afar can return to normal. We pray that the pandemic will ease, peace will return to Ethiopia and that we can help more women across Africa deliver safely and be cured of their fistulae.

About the Barbara May Foundation

The primary focus of BMF-funded programs is safe childbirth, the delivery of live babies, and mothers not dying or injured during childbirth. Obstetric fistula treatment and family planning education is also provided. The majority of BMF-funded programs focus on women living in rural areas and disadvantaged communities. Services are provided to those in need regardless of race, religion or financial status.

- ♥ About 800 women die from pregnancy – or childbirth-related complications around the world every day.
- ♥ Almost all maternal deaths (99%) occur in developing countries and more than half of these deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ♥ For every death, another 30 women suffer from terrible birth-related injuries, including obstetric fistula.

The women BMF-funded programs serve in Africa

There are over 80 major language groups in Ethiopia and including dialects, there are 216 different languages. In Tanzania there are 120 different tribes and 126 different languages. Translators are often required to get a medical history from a patient which may mean navigating two or three different languages.

Each tribe has a different culture and belief system around pregnancy and delivery. For example, in the Gumuz tribe, based west of Bahir Dar, their custom dictates a pregnant woman will go by herself into the bush at 38 weeks and stay there by herself until she has delivered her child. She will either die by herself in labour or survive and return with her child, possibly badly injured from the delivery.



In the Afar region the local population also battle drought, famine, disease outbreaks and continuing military and civil unrest. The women and girls in this region are amongst the most under-served in the world when it comes to women's health and maternal care.

Most rural women live more than 10km walk from the nearest health centre and more than 90% are still delivering in their village homes. According to the World Economic Forum, nearly one third of women of childbearing age live more than 2 hours away from a health facility. In many of these regions traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation are still practised.



Projects supported in Africa (in whole or in part)



Barbara May Memorial Maternity Hospital (BMMMH) The Afar Region, Mille, Ethiopia

The Afar is considered one of the harshest environments in the world where temperatures regularly exceed 50°. The tribal group (The Afar) are a proud and beautiful nomadic people. In 2010, the Foundation funded the building of the Barbara May Memorial Maternity Hospital. Opened in 2011, it provided access to free, safe, maternal health services to remote and nomadic women for the first time in history. The Foundation also funds the Rural Maternal & Women's Health Outreach program in that region which can deliver up to 10,000 women a year.

	Number of deliveries: *	FY2021 7767	FY2020 6661		Clinic visits:	FY2021 6379
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*Includes the deliveries in both the rural network and hospital combined. The number of clinic visits refers to the hospital only.

Vision Maternity Care Hospital (VMC) Barhir Dar, Ethiopia

Operated in partnership with the local Health Bureau, VMC started operating in 2011 (the new hospital was opened in 2017) overseeing up to 3,000 births-a-year. The unit is known as one of the safest places to have a baby in the Amhara region with no maternal deaths recorded. In addition, VMC provides antenatal and post-natal care, HIV screenings and family planning advice. It is also a training centre for midwives and supervises nine surrounding health centres.

	Number of deliveries:	FY2021 2317	FY2020 2693		Clinic visits:	FY2021 11,732
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Kivulini Maternity Centre Maternity Africa (MA) – Arusha, Tanzania

Kivulini, which opened in June 2018, is now recording over 2000 deliveries. Kivulini comprises a modern and well-equipped 48-bed maternity centre, a midwife training school and an obstetric fistula treatment unit. The Outreach program covers up to 20 surrounding regions.

	Number of deliveries:	FY2021 2546	FY2020 1914		Clinic visits:	FY2021 12,080
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Reconciliation Hospital Referendum, South Sudan


In 2018, Andrew worked with the Lutheran Church to build a fistula unit in the capital, Juba. In 2020, they agreed to fund a 10-bed maternity unit which opened in June this year. The Foundation is supporting the volunteer midwives and doctors to staff the centre and further train the local staff.



Fistula Treatment

Dr Andrew performs fistula surgery (and trains surgeons) in Nepal, the Afar, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania. Visits have decreased over the last year due to complications around travel, but some Fistula camps took place. Seven doctors and several nurses received additional training. During the pandemic there was an opportunity to perform online training all over the world and regular Fistula treatment advice and support was provided online to doctors from most African countries. The lack of travel has given Dr Andrew the time to complete the second edition of the globally-recognised Fistula surgery textbook. It will be distributed worldwide to all fistula surgery trainees under the International Federation of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FIGO) fistula training program. Dr Andrew remains the Chair of the FIGO fistula training program and has also helped re-write the FIGO training manual this year.

*performed by Dr Andrew Browning

	Number of Fistula Surgeries: *	ETHIOPIA 10	UGANDA 31
		STH SUDAN 38	TANZANIA 102



Our Finances Year ending June 2021

A full version of our audited annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021 can be found on our website.

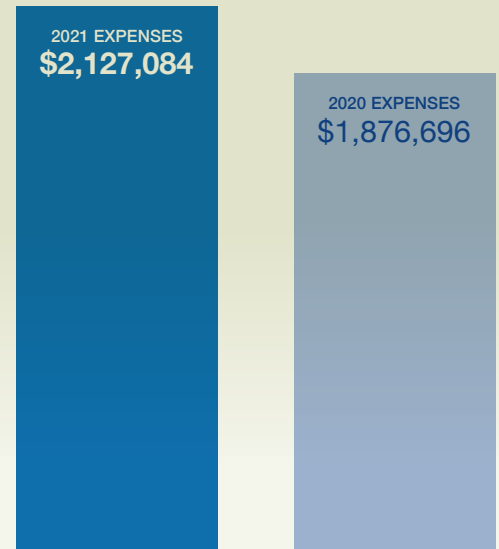
Income 2021



	2021	2020
Donations*	\$2,710,720	\$2,167,769
Government grants	\$43,224	\$19,000
Fundraising income	\$89,322	\$6,714
Sales of goods	\$17,904	\$3,465
Other income	\$200	–
Interest income	\$6,369	\$14,762
Total Income:	\$2,867,739	\$2,211,710

*All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

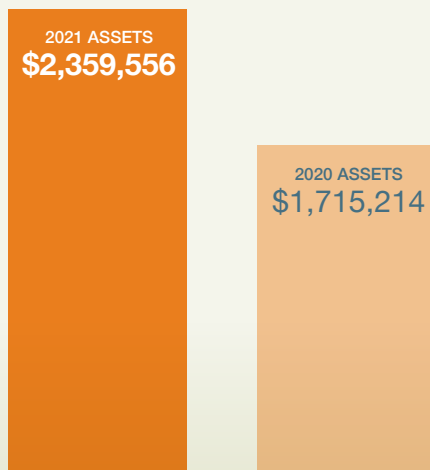
Use of funds 2021



*Cost of fundraising:
7% of revenue was spent on fundraising and administration.

	2021	2020
Barbara May Memorial Maternity Hospital	\$379,209	\$514,666
Rural Maternity Program	\$117,777	\$186,978
Food Shortage Appeal	\$170,817	–
Vision Maternity Care Hospital	\$442,149	\$462,090
Kivulini Maternity Centre	\$725,427	\$471,459
Medical supervision & travel	\$97,947	\$86,178
Fundraising and administration*	\$193,758	\$155,325
Total expenditure:	\$2,127,084	\$1,876,696

Assets 2021



	2021	2020
Cash – unrestricted	\$1,336,023	\$1,077,402
Cash – restricted	\$701,590	\$620,092
Trade & other receivables	\$6,158	\$4,048
Prepaid expenses	\$311,324	\$13,329
Inventory	\$1,907	–
Plant and equipment	\$2,554	\$343
Total Assets:	\$2,359,556	\$1,715,214

How far does a donation go?

 **\$50**

will pay for the transport of a woman to hospital

 **\$200**

will pay for a safe delivery in a hospital including pre & post-natal care

 **\$150**

will pay for 65 delivery kits for local birth attendants in remote regions

 **\$400**

will pay for a life-changing fistula operation

Our wishlist

A champion and funding partner for Valerie's Rural Maternal Healthcare program. AUD\$240,000 is required annually for this critical program servicing the most marginalised women in the world.

Fistula Treatment

Dr Andrew was only able to travel back to Africa for fistula camps twice this year meaning the camps were much busier.

When he visited the South Sudan in March he completed 38 surgeries among which was a young woman called Aruel who also suffers from Dwarfism.

After two agonising days in labour she finally reached a hospital to undergo a caesarean and deliver her second child in a remote area of South Sudan.

Remarkably, the child survived but sadly Aruel suffered a fistula, leaking urine and living in shame and terrible discomfort. She had to wait a year for the camp to take place, so Andrew was very pleased to be able to treat her.

Through successful surgery she is now cured and her dignity and freedom are regained. She and her family are of course delighted. Aruel is pictured here with staff of the hospital.



The Situation in The Afar, Ethiopia by Valerie Browning

In late November 2020, following an unending run of natural disasters, the hardships for the people of the Afar continued with the outbreak of civil conflict.

Firstly, Afar households offered assistance to their neighbours from Tigray as they ran to save their lives. Secondly, as of July 16, 2021, the people were forced to deal with the conflict spilling into the Afar region itself, and more than 120,000 Afar pastoralists were driven from their homes, fleeing full-scale conflict.

The entire Afar north and centre had no access to food or medical services.

As this humanitarian disaster unfolded, our focus turned again to the mothers facing giving birth alone, in an extremely dangerous and uncertain landscape. Ambulances could not function, government clinic staff fled and many health institutions, in the path of the oncoming Tigray soldiers, were destroyed. Again, the young mother's and mother-to-be were reliant on APDA's mobile health teams to reach and support them.

The Barbara May Memorial Maternity

As this humanitarian disaster unfolded, our focus turned again to the mothers facing giving birth alone.

Hospital in Mille remained generally unaffected as it is some distance from the fighting and the staff were safe and stayed to help in any way they could. Women were still coming to the hospital to deliver but in smaller numbers as travel became dangerous. We continued to care for them while increasing our outreach capacity.

Because of the insecurity, no larger NGOs were working in the area so we increased our food support to starving pregnant and lactating women into three more remote districts making a total of 11.



My time at Kivulini by Professor Jonathan Morris AM



Between May 2019 and December 2019 my wife Katherine and I had the privilege to work at Kivulini Maternity Centre, Arusha. Nestled within coffee plantations, with Mount Meru as an imposing backdrop, the Hospital serves as a true beacon of hope to some of the world's most disadvantaged women.

It is a place that offers safe motherhood as well as the spiritual and physical repair of women, some as young as 13, damaged by the complications of pregnancy. It is a place from which the women come away healed and volunteers, like myself, leave changed.

I participated in all aspects of maternity and newborn care; my wife oversaw training in ultrasound. Needless to say the experiences were unlike those of the North Shore of Sydney. The black mamba snake bite that led to a woman's preterm birth; the need to donate blood myself prior to operating on a woman with massive blood loss, and those

women who presented with fistula due to advanced cervical cancer for which there is little treatment. I found myself frequently deeply embarrassed by the opulent grandiosity of the health system I was so familiar with in Australia.

What can one say about Kivulini in a few short sentences? The hospital itself gleams, it is spotlessly cleaned daily. The staff offer a high level of technical expertise whether in the labour ward, operating theatres or on the ward. Their warmth and humour is a joy.

However, it is the women for whom the hospital cares that are most inspiring. Whether it is the silent, resolute nature of

the Maasai women during labour and birth, the sense of shared humanity that radiates from women who have been debilitated by obstetric fistula when they gather from all directions to meet those with similar stories, or the bond between mother and her newborn strapped to her back – those women reminded me to delight in things that matter and that providing hope is essential to health care.

The words that greet those who enter Kivulini are the inspiration and instruction for all: "What does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."



A Doctor In Africa Book Launch

Dr Andrew Browning launched his autobiography *A Doctor in Africa* earlier this year.

The book covers Andrew's journey from a young medical student to the respected surgeon he is today, and how his dream to care for the remote women of Africa came to be. Andrew says he always felt he had a calling from God to work in Africa after hearing a missionary speak at his Sunday School in Bowral, NSW when he was six-years-old.

The launch took place at the Sydney Opera House and featured a stunning performance by world-class Australian Opera singer Ayse Shanal.

Andrew was interviewed by the book's co-author Patrick Kennedy, a great



friend and Ambassador to the BMF, and attended by many of Andrew's close friends and supporters of the Foundation.

Published by Pan Macmillan, the book is available through all good bookstores or the Foundation.



The BMF Board

Chairman: Michael Sharpe AO

Deputy Chair: Dr Samantha Hargreaves

Founders & Board Directors: Dr David Browning OAM (Ret), & Bishop George Browning (Ret)

Treasurer: Matthew Pendleton

Audit Committee Chair: Tom Crawford

Julie Toma

Richard Browning

The BMF Executive Team

Valerie Browning AM

Dr Andrew Browning AM, Medical Director

Jo Crowley: General Manager

Michael Hynds: International Donor Relations

Ambassadors

The Foundation is also assisted by the Board appointment of Honorary Ambassadors: Dr Arthur Adeny, Brad Baker, Sr Kareena Shaw, Dr Geoff Kelsey and Patrick Kennedy. We thank them most sincerely for their support.

Volunteers

Our thanks goes out to the many doctors and midwives who have volunteered over the past Financial Year.

Major Project Partners & Supporters

– Australia

Australian Communities Foundation, Cubit Family Foundation, DAK Foundation, Herbert Smith Freehills, Morris Family Foundation, My Sister's Baby, Nourish Baby, Planet Wheeler Foundation, PwC, Savannah Foundation, Sonic Healthcare Australia, Sydney Local Health District, South Western Sydney Local Health District, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Safe Sleep Space, Story Street Fund, Ripple Foundation, Twice the Doctor

– International

The Talbot Family, Impact UK, King Baudouin USA, Excellence in Giving USA, Lutheran Churches of USA & South Sudan, Family Foundations from the UK, USA and Switzerland who prefer to remain anonymous.

Thank-you to all our supporters and donors both large and small. Together, and through your generosity, we are delivering safe birth and freedom from fistulae for the most disadvantaged women in regional and remote Africa.


How can you help?


Donating to the Barbara May Foundation will allow us to support volunteer doctors and midwives, build and operate maternal health facilities, maintain and increase the Outreach programs, and provide vital medical supplies.

Donate

Any donations, whether great or small, are very much appreciated and will help us deliver care to the many women who need it.

You can donate:

 **Online:** www.barbaramayfoundation.com

 **By cheque or money order:**
Care of The Barbara May Foundation, PO Box 2371
Bowral NSW 2576. Please include your contact
details so we can issue a receipt

By Direct Deposit:*

BSB: 032716 (Westpac)
Account: 403741

Other Ways to Support

There are many other ways to help BMF deliver lasting change in Tanzania, Ethiopia and South Sudan including: workplace giving, fundraising, bequests, and regular giving. To find out more, visit:
barbaramayfoundation.com/how-can-i-help

ABN 351 412 489 00

*Please note you will need to contact us to advise of a Direct Debit transfer so we can issue you a tax deductible receipt by emailing: daviddaphne1@gmail.com



**Barbara May
Foundation**

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