



14 August 2009



Blind in both eyes, Selestina Ximenes is led to a Hollows NZ vision screening by two of her grandchildren | Photo: Lucy Lee, FHFNZ

Dear Supporter,

2009 is an exciting year for 60-year-old grandmother Selestina Ximenes. Blind in both eyes, she has been offered sight-restoring surgery later this year from a new surgical services team set up by The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ in Timor-Leste. This surgery will very likely change her life.

On the day we met Selestina, she was led to the screening by two of her grandchildren. She has a number of vision problems, including cataract in both eyes and glaucoma, but cataract surgery is possible and could significantly improve her vision. She won't just get her sight back, she'll have a whole new life.

Selestina is one of the many people you've helped. With your continued support, we can help many more.

Until recently, life-changing surgery would have been impossible for Selestina. She doesn't have her own transport and public transport is prohibitively expensive. But now, thanks to the Hollows NZ surgical services team, patients will be brought in for treatment several times a year.

However, with just two theatre sessions a week currently allocated to eye surgery at the national hospital in Dili (GVNH), only three to six eye operations are possible weekly. In a country with an estimated backlog of 10,000 cases, this isn't nearly enough. To reach the 40 surgeries a week required to treat new cases of cataract blindness, a dedicated surgical facility is desperately needed.



The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

YES I would like to restore sight:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$

Whatever amount you choose to give, your gift is truly appreciated.

My cheque/money order payable to The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ is enclosed.

OR, please debit my (tick as appropriate):

Amex Diners Mastercard VISA

Card number

Name on card Expiry /

Signature

Telephone

Email

Please send me (please tick)

- details on becoming a member of The Miracle Club by making regular donations by direct debit, automatic payment or credit card.
- details on making a gift to The Foundation in my will.
- I have already made provision for The Foundation in my will.

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Our vision is to build a national eye clinic and training facility. With your support, we can make it a reality.

Hollows NZ has begun work designing a national eye clinic and training facility. This centre will house the country's first dedicated eye operating theatre and outpatient clinics, as well as an optical workshop, a low vision clinic, a training centre and offices to manage clinical and other eye health services. We'll begin work to build the National Eye Centre, at GVNH in Dili, as soon as all funds are available.

Together with the new surgical services team, the National Eye Centre will mean people like Selestina, and many more like her, will receive sight-restoring surgery much sooner.



*Members of the new surgical services team.
| Photo Lucy Lee, FHFNZ*

Thanks to our partnership in this building programme with The Fred Hollows Foundation in Australia we now have over half the funds needed. But we need a further \$300,000 to make it a reality. It might feel like an enormous hurdle, but just \$50 from each of our generous supporters will give us what we need to complete this facility and help many, many more people like Selestina.

So please give what you can and help make a difference to thousands of lives in Timor-Leste each year. With your help, the National Eye Centre could be operating from as early as 2010 – and for many years after that.

We appreciate your support.

Kind regards

Jacqui Ramke
Timor-Leste Country Director

We're proud to run a lean organisation – 85c in every \$1 raised goes directly to our programs in the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste (2008 Annual Report).

As a supporter of The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ, you know the satisfaction of helping others regain the miracle of sight. Perhaps some of your friends and family would like to help too!

Simply note the names of two friends below and we'll contact them to see if they'd like to receive our newsletter.

1. _____ 2. _____

Please return your completed form in the envelope provided to:
The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ, Private Bag 99909, Newmarket, Auckland 1149.
To speak to our Fundraising Department, please call (09) 304 0524.



**The Fred Hollows
Foundation NZ**