



6 November 2009



34-year-old Kadavu resident Ulaiasi Rabesa was blind in both eyes. He is seen here with his aunt the day before a Pacific Eye Institute outreach team performed surgery to restore his sight.

Dear Supporter,

As we enter the Christmas season, I would like to thank you for your support of our work.

Just two months ago I had the privilege to see first hand what a difference your support is making and I have tried in this letter to tell the story of Ulaiasi to make this experience real for you too. For each donation of \$100, four more people like Ulaiasi will have a very special reason to celebrate this Christmas.

I have read many stories about people we have helped in the Pacific but none of them prepared me for what I saw and experienced during my first visit to an outreach program.

A team of staff and students from our Suva-based training centre, The Pacific Eye Institute, ran the outreach visit to Kadavu in Fiji. A rugged and mountainous island, Kadavu is home to around 10,000 people but has no eye care nurse and has had very few visits by eye health service teams, the last one over six years ago.

During the outreach, I watched a cataract operation for the first time. The patient was a 34-year-old man, Ulaiasi Rabesa. Ulaiasi had been blind in both eyes for three years and was totally dependent on his aunt and uncle. He relied on them for all his daily needs, and had not been able to work since losing his sight. When Ulaiasi came into the hospital, he was very withdrawn and quiet. At the time, I did not realize just how frightened he was, nor how overwhelming it was for him to be in such an unfamiliar place when he could not see.



The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ

YES I would like to restore sight:

\$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 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):

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Card number

Name on card Expiry /

Signature

Telephone

Email

Please send me (please tick)

- 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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I followed Ulaiasi's treatment from the moment he arrived in the clinic, through his screening and his surgery. However, the moment his eye patch was removed will stay with me for ever. I had heard the phrase "Miracle of Sight" before but that one moment made it real.

Ulaiasi's joy at being able to see again and what this would mean for his future was profound. He literally became a different person and the quiet withdrawn man who had struggled to communicate with others became the centre of attention in the village, laughing and smiling with all his neighbours. His joy was contagious and I smile even now as I remember his pride in showing us his plot of land which he will now be able to work again to grow food for his family.

Ulaiasi is just one of hundreds of people each year who would not have the opportunity to turn their lives around without the support you give to The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ.

I wish you could have been there with me to share this moment and to reflect that if we had not been able to bring the services to him, Ulaiasi would have remained blind, isolated and economically dependent.

Your support is truly making the world of difference to people like Ulaiasi and his family and, on his behalf, I thank you for helping us keep this work going.

Kind regards



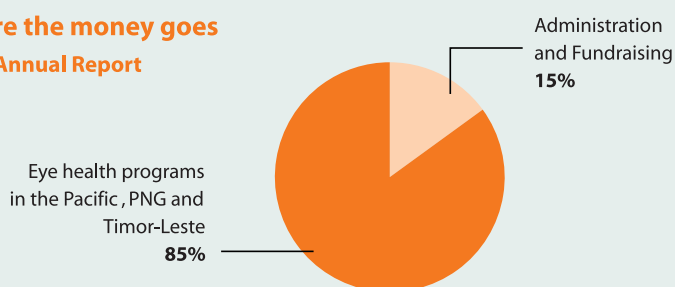
Nicki Paull
The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ



Ulaiasi and his aunt at home the day after his sight was restored.

We are extremely proud of our reputation as a lean and efficient organisation determined to maximise our spending on our eye care work across the Pacific. For every \$15 we spend on administration and fundraising, \$85 goes directly to our eye health programs.

Where the money goes 2008 Annual Report



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.



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