

## 2025 AIIA EUAN CRONE ASIA AWARENESS REPORT- CALLUM TRAINOR

I flew to Indonesia at the end of November and began an intensive language program straight away with my teacher Ibu Hesti at BLS. I had previously studied Indonesian and had been studying in Australia to maximise my time in Indonesia for my Euan Crone Asia Awareness scholarship. I studied Bahasa Indonesia 6 days a week and used my free time to get to know the people living near me in Yogyakarta. Javanese people are extremely polite and welcoming to foreigners. They are also very proud to share about their country. I spent most nights hanging around the local coffee shops chatting with people I met about Indonesia and researching the Indonesian healthcare system on my laptop, while Indonesians drank copious amounts of coffee throughout the night.

After a few weeks I met my supervisor, Dr. Rony, from the Paediatrics department at Dr. Sardjito General Hospital who worked for the University of Gajah Mada. Dr. Rony gave me a tour of the hospital and helped me to design a schedule that would allow me to maximise my time in the hospital and told me about his experience working as a doctor in Indonesia. I was fortunate because Dr. Rony had previously worked at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne and could give me insights into the differences between the two systems. Dr. Rony insisted he could only explain these insights in Bahasa Indonesia. I felt proud being able to speak Indonesian comfortably with him and the other doctors and patients I met at Dr. Sardjito General Hospital. I am very grateful to the Euan Crone Asia Awareness scholarship for allowing me to spend time in Yogyakarta and study Indonesian before beginning at the hospital as it greatly enriched my experience.

At the hospital I rotated through the different departments with every morning and evening being a different clinic or ward. This was a very intense experience as I would have to work with a new team of up to 20 doctors, twice a day. However, this gave me the opportunity to meet hundreds of doctors and patients in my short time in Yogya and to see many areas of the hospital. I met many incredible doctors and most days they would spend time teaching and answering questions I had about Indonesia. I was able to get hands-on experience working under extremely qualified doctors. I worked under consultants that had studied all over the world and each had unique insights into the challenges they face at home in Indonesia. I was lucky to have met a kind junior doctor who had studied a masters of public health and worked with a number of NGOs trying to increase access to health care in Indonesia. This doctor taught me a lot about the current health challenges in Indonesia and we caught up often for coffee to continue the conversation. I am incredibly grateful to this doctor and she inspired the Op-Ed I have written.

I was able to spend a lot of time in the infectious disease and tropical medicine department. This experience was the most different from anything I had experienced in Australia. I spent one day working exclusively with children who were experiencing complications from their HIV. These children all caught HIV during birth from their HIV positive mothers. HIV treatment is now incredibly effective and available free of charge under the Indonesian universal health care insurance program. However, these children live far from hospitals and their parents have been given very little education on the importance of their daily medications. Therefore many of these children were incredibly sick and it was something I had never seen before in Australia. I completed a final presentation talking about one of these complex HIV patients and completed an evaluation with my supervisor, to finish my time at Dr. Sardjito.

I met many incredible people while in Indonesia and have made many friends. I hope to use these strong personal and professional relationships to continue to learn about Indonesia and, more broadly, to learn about our shared health challenges in the world, and hopefully this will lead to future working and learning opportunities for me. I am incredibly grateful to AIIA for having received the Euan Crone Asia Awareness scholarship, as this experience was incredibly eye-opening, inspiring and enjoyable. I hope to continue to build off these experiences and to share part of what I have learned with the AIIA student and young professional community.