



## ***Media Statement***

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15.03.2011

### **Helping burns victims of Laos**

For the very first time for Beth Sperring, Royal Perth Hospital nurse and local Morley resident, will be travelling to a developing country to help treat people living with burns and trauma injuries.

Beth, Clinical Nurse Consultant at RPH, said her role will be to provide post-operative wound care in the ward.

“There is a huge need for plastic re-constructive surgery in Laos. We’ll be working with local medical and nursing teams to treat patients with burns and trauma injuries.” Beth said.

“This will be an experience completely different to what we are used to here in Australia. We’ll be working 12 hour days, with no running water and basic medical equipment.

“I see this as a great opportunity to impart skills and knowledge about wound care to local nurses; however, I will need to rely on my knowledge and skills of wound care going back to the 1970s as I will not have access to technology or equipment that we have in our modern hospitals.”

“The trip will be a challenge, but certainly one that I am relishing. I am sure to return home with new understanding and insights.”

Beth will be travelling with RPH Plastic Surgeon Dr James Savundra and seven other clinical and nursing volunteers from across Australia who are all volunteers for Interplast, an aid organisation who provide plastic and reconstructive surgery to the developing world.

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