

# Chang Hua Christian Hospital offers cancer treatment in Taiwan

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PAPUA New Guinea faces a significant challenge in its healthcare system, particularly in addressing the high mortality rates associated with breast, cervical and oral cancers among others.

On average, four women succumb to breast cancer, two to cervical cancer, and 870 individuals to oral cancer daily.

The dire situation is exacerbated by the lack of medical equipment, inadequate annual health checks, uncoordinated precaution programs, and a scarcity of essential drugs and medical beds.

Due to this challenges, Port Moresby General Hospital and Chang-Hua Christian Hospital is soon to establish a referral medical service for cancer treatment in Taiwan.

This is all about enhancing medical referral services for cancer and other medical conditions requiring specialist health care not available in PNG.

The option of Taiwan is an immediate action that PMGH as a National, Tertiary and Specialist Referral Hospital wishes to embark on whilst developing its capacity to fully establish high level specialist health care in Port Moresby.

According to Ambassador Ben Wang, representing the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in PNG, given the shortcomings in PNG's healthcare infrastructure, it is imperative to explore options for referral medical services abroad.

However, several neighbouring countries present challenges:

- Obtaining visas for medical ser-



**AMBASSADOR  
Ben Wang**

vices is a cumbersome process for Papua New Guineans and also very costly.

- The cost of medical services is prohibitively expensive for foreigners and also airfares to this option are very expensive for ordinary PNG Citizens.

- Access to medical services involves costly processing fees of brokers, placing an additional burden on cancer or patients with other medical conditions and their families.

Among the options considered,

Taiwan emerges as an optimal choice for several reasons:

- Collaboration with PMGH: Chang-hua Christian Hospital has an established cooperation mechanism with PMGH, ensuring the quality of medical services.

- Cost-Effective Transportation: The round-trip airfare from Port Moresby to Taipei is approximately \$700, making it more affordable than travel to outlier provinces.

- Efficient Visa Processing: The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Port Moresby can issue visas within one day if necessary, streamlining the process for patients.

"The charges for quality cancer and medical treatments, including chemotherapy, radiotherapy and medication are comparatively reasonable," Ambassador Wang said.