

Mario and Judite

Mario and Judite run a small but vital program titled 'Rotarians Helping Timor'. A major component of their work is accepting sea containers full of goods from Australia for distribution to people in Timor-Leste. Donated goods are distributed to the many people, groups, schools and others in need throughout Timor-Leste. The Rotary Club of Melbourne helps cover administration and removal costs.

Judite has become an advocate and trainer for the Days for Girls program, which provides quality menstrual care solutions to women who otherwise may be excluded from education and employment. She works with schools in Dili and Bacau to promote the program and provide instruction. She has helped distribute around 700 kits to students with support from Days for Girls groups in Australia; and has plans to extend the program to Atauro Island next year. Judite liaises with groups in Dili and Bacau to make Days for Girls kits available to women ineligible to receive free kits.

Mario has taken on the role of managing the ROMAC program in Timor. He liaises with families of children and medical officers and coordinates all aspects of the process to ensure children arrive at their allocated destination. To date, Mario has organised for 20 children to travel to Sydney, Melbourne and New Zealand under the ROMAC umbrella.

Mario and Judite also assist with the Timor-Leste Leavers Experience, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Margaret River and the Lions Clubs of Augusta, Cowaramup and Margaret River. The initiative helps graduates travel to the islands for a combination of adventure and service. Mario and Judite arrange transport to and from Atauro and Bacau, and accommodation and transport around Dili. In 2018 they organised a Christmas party for orphans and disadvantaged children at Timor Lodge, with almost a thousand children and families showing up to experience the fun. In recognition of their work Mario and Judite have been awarded Paul Harris Fellowships.