

# Himalayan Spiti Dental Program



The Himalayan Spiti Dental Program (HSDP) was developed in June 2008 to establish a dental program in two large isolated boarding schools in the Spiti Valley, Himachel Pradesh, North West India.



**Serkong School, Tabo**



**Munsel-Ling School, Rangrik**

The 800 children's ages range from 6 years to 16 years of age. Serkong School (Tabo) and Munsel Ling School (Rangrik) receive the children from isolated villages in the Spiti Valley. Because of the harsh cold conditions in winter, the pupils are boarded in the school's hostels, so the schools are responsible for the students basic needs (clothing, medical and dental treatment etc).



**Entrance to the Spiti Valley**

Through a chance meeting between Dr. Bob Lavis and Abbot Geshe Sonam Wangduei (from Tabo Ancient Monastery)

in Tasmania 2007 the HSDP has evolved to care for these two Buddhist schools.



**2009 HSDP Team**

Through the generosity of interested individuals here in Tasmania and Australia, funds were raised to purchase dental equipment and supplies to establish two dental clinics in these Spitian schools.



Two Australian volunteer dental teams lead by Dr. Bob Lavis have worked in these clinics in July 2008, June 2009, and they returned in July 2010 and 2011.



**2008 HSDP Team**



During these 3 week visits, dental treatment and dental education are provided to students, teachers and house parents. The basic dental clinics have been refined so that the equipment can be used by other visiting dental teams from India and overseas.



In August 2011 and 2012 an Australian volunteer dental team lead by Dr Joanne Richardson returned to continue servicing these school clinics. A return trip is planned for 2013.

Future fundraising initiatives will help purchase: Tooth brushes, toothpaste, and basic dental sundries, to enable the program to continue.

Donations can be deposited to the following account to support this program:

**Bob Lavis (Spiti Account)  
Acc #: 017010 508046034**