

How to Join a CHAT Team
Brief Version
(Extended version has more detail)

We welcome you and hope you'll join as a volunteer with CHAT on a trip to Vietnam.

Our Mission is to provide dental services to the very poor and needy children and their Carers at orphanages, institutions and schools in central and southern Vietnam.

A CHAT experience is a very special, interesting, worthwhile and rewarding experience.

It offers a unique opportunity to combine volunteer professional services with seeing the beautiful Vietnamese countryside, meet the warm, friendly people, see and experience their culture and enjoy their delicious foods. Vietnam is a charming country.

Our volunteers are very important to us and your help and support is greatly appreciated.

PROCEDURE FOR JOINING:

- Express your interest to our Secretary, Melanie Chen – secretary@chatinc.org or telephone: (08) 9271 3953 / 0491 719 680 (texts only) – you need confirmation that a vacancy exists.
- To fill in your trip/membership application go to our website - <https://www.chatinc.org.au>
- Read our Disclaimer/Waiver.
- Send payment (A\$300 plus option of \$50 in lieu of carrying supplies for CHAT) deposited directly into the CHAT bank account (details when you fill in your application). CHAT does not have a credit card facility.
- Include documents required. Your application is not complete till all documents are received.
- Our policy is to fill positions on a 'first to pay' basis, subject to quotas for different roles on teams (dentists, dental assistants etc).
- You need to make travel arrangements yourself, including flights, visa, comprehensive travel insurance. Your travel agent can do this, or you can organise this online.
- Read through the CHAT website, all emails and attachments sent to you, and purchase the items you need for your CHAT trip to Vietnam.
- Visit your doctor to discuss your immunisation status for travelling to Vietnam. CHAT highly recommends –
 - ✓ Hepatitis A
 - ✓ Hepatitis B - The CHAT work environment in Vietnam presents a **high risk** of contact with Hepatitis B if you are assisting dentists providing dental treatment to children and adults at orphanages/institutions in Vietnam
 - ✓ Typhoid

- ✓ Measles
 - ✓ Tetanus
- Covid-19 virus vaccination (full course +/- booster(s)) is **mandatory**.
 - Update your CPR skills.
 - As of August 2022, you can no longer register travel plans with Smartraveller. Instead, you can subscribe to receive updates on your destinations.
 - Accommodation on arrival in Ho Chi Minh City till departure for our working site (usually Sunday morning) **MUST** be booked by you at Tuong Vi Hotel Saigon in District 10, Ho Chi Minh City. (NOT Tuong Vy Hotel in District 1, NOT Tuong Vi Corner Hotel in District 10).
 - Address: 111 Trần Thiện Chánh, P12 (Ward 12), Q10 (District 10), near Ha Do Villas cul de sac, phone: 84 97 438 90 17. (Manager Mr Hai +84 909 360 843), website: tuongvihotel.com/saigon/ or email the manager: tuongvihotelsg@gmail.com making sure you mention you are on a CHAT team.
 - Or book through the usual hotel booking sites.
 - The hotel is clean and tidy, and equivalent in Australia to about a 2-3 star rating.
 - We strongly recommend volunteers stay together in the team hotel, although you are free to make other arrangements, as long as you inform us.
 - If the hotel is fully booked, please contact the Secretary for alternative hotels nearby which CHAT recommends.
 - If you don't stay at Tuong Vi Hotel, then it's your responsibility to be at CHAT headquarters on the first Saturday morning at a specified time, to be set by your Leader, to meet the CHAT team, prepare supplies and equipment to be packed on the bus.
 - We recommend you arrive in Ho Chi Minh City no later than Friday night.
 - CHAT trips usually travel away from Ho Chi Minh City on Sunday morning to work at a country location, Monday to Friday. Accommodation at country locations, from Sunday night to Thursday night inclusive, is usually booked by CHAT. You return to Ho Chi Minh City by Friday night, when you must book your own accommodation again.
 - CHAT requires you to be available for CHAT work from 8-9 am on the first Saturday until 3 pm the following Saturday, i.e. no leaving early for any planned further travel.
 - A pre-departure meeting of members for each team is organised approximately 3-4 weeks prior to departure. This meeting is an opportunity to:-
 - 1) meet each other
 - 2) get answers to any questions you may have and
 - 3) be given advice on what to expect during your CHAT experience.

If you are not located in Perth, check with Jennifer Chan president@chatinc.org if you can attend online.

Permission to have photos taken and used by CHAT:

You MUST let your trip Leader know if you have any objections to any CHAT photos with yourself in it. We may use them for promoting CHAT – such as on our website and Facebook page.

Also - Please check your SPAM folder occasionally for CHAT mails as sometimes they end up there.

Last updated – April 2023

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