

9 September 2017

Hon Gerry Brownlee
Minister Foreign Affairs
Private Bag 18041,
Parliament Buildings
Wellington,
New Zealand 6160

Dear Minister,

**Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)
RNZWCS (Rotary New Zealand)**

On behalf of the 8,500 New Zealand Rotarians and their extended families and from the Rotary International family, our grateful thanks personally to you Minister and to the New Zealand Government for the confirmation of the \$5 million contribution to Rotary New Zealand for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) to help the global fight to end polio.

It will contribute to ending polio transmission in the last remaining countries of Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. This funding to the GPEI will purchase and distribute polio vaccines; support polio surveillance and monitoring; fund immunisation campaigns and strengthen routine immunisation systems.

Rotary New Zealand recognises your support Minister and that of your officials who have brought about this outcome.

The New Zealand Government can be justly proud as it continues its support to this important global initiative, and this contribution brings the total funding for GPEI from the Government to in excess of NZ \$10 million.

The world has made great gains in the fight against polio. The incidence of the disease has decreased by more than 99 per cent since 1988, with just ten recorded cases of polio so far in 2017.

Rotary New Zealand is committed to ensure that this success is continued to the point where there are no new polio cases and it will join smallpox as the only human diseases to be permanently eradicated from the world.

Please convey our sincere acknowledgement to all those who have made this magnificent contribution possible.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart J Batty QSM, JP
Executive Director

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