The World Mosquito Program in New Caledonia is part of a global, not-for-profit initiative that is working to protect local communities from mosquito-borne diseases.

In March 2018, we announced a new partnership with the Government of New Caledonia, the City of Nouméa and the Institute Pasteur in New Caledonia to protect communities in New Caledonia from mosquito-borne diseases.

After conducting laboratory studies to examine the impact of Wolbachia on dengue and chikungunya viruses in Nouméa, and engaging with the community to explain our Wolbachia method and gain their acceptance, we are releasing Wolbachia-carrying mosquitoes across Nouméa. We are also rigorously evaluating the impact of Wolbachia on the transmission of dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases in the area.

New Caledonia is the fourth country in the Western Pacific to join the global initiative.

**MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE BURDEN IN NEW CALEDONIA**

Mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue pose increasing health concerns for New Caledonia.

According to a World Health Organization report, more than 4000 dengue cases and 10 deaths were reported between September 2016 and June 2017.
Many countries in the Pacific, including New Caledonia, are always at risk from the threat of mosquitoes. With the self-sustaining Wolbachia method, we have a chance to use the best of nature to fight the worst of nature.

- Dr Tristan Derycke, City of Noumea Deputy Mayor

A beautiful day for the first release in New Caledonia

On a beautiful July day in New Caledonia’s largest city and capital, Nouméa, a crowd gathered in Coconut Square for the ceremonial release of thousands of Wolbachia mosquitoes.

The World Mosquito Program provided 100 boxes of adult Wolbachia mosquitoes for people to release. With this and subsequent releases, planned until the end of March 2020, the Wolbachia mosquitoes will mate with wild mosquitoes, so that most of the mosquitoes in and around Nouméa will carry Wolbachia, reducing their ability to transmit mosquito-borne viruses such as dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

This was a historic moment, reflected by the attendees, who included representatives of important partners of the program – the Department of Health and Social Affairs of New Caledonia, the City of Nouméa Directorate of Health Risks, and the Institute Pasteur in New Caledonia – and local supporters from the EEC (electricity supplier), Fontaines d’eau du Mont-Dore (water supplier), and Office des Postes et Télécommunications de Nouvelle-Calédonie (telecommunications provider).

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About us
The World Mosquito Program (WMP) is a not-for-profit group of companies owned by Monash University that works to protect the global community from mosquito-borne diseases. The World Mosquito Program uses naturally occurring bacteria called Wolbachia to reduce the ability of mosquitoes to transmit viruses to humans.

Following decades of research and successful field trial results, the World Mosquito Program is currently partnering with communities in 13 countries around the world to implement our ground-breaking solution. We have staff working in countries across Oceania, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, and offices established in Australia, Vietnam, France and Panama.

Our approach has widespread support from communities, governments, research institutes and philanthropic partners around the world. Through collaboration and innovation, we are making a difference to millions of lives.