Press Release:

The Dalan Ninin Program begins in Dili

A health program that reaches out to people sleeping on the streets in Dili was started two weeks ago by PRADET (Psycho Social Rehabilitation and Development in East Timor).

The program called “Dalan Ninin” will contact those who may be homeless and sleeping on the streets and in need of special assistance from health services and social assistance from the community.

The PRADET team are reaching out to people three mornings a week (Wednesday to Friday). They will bring some breakfast food and offer people assistance that can include personal care at PRADET, organizing for them to access health services, assisting them to be in contact with family if that is requested by them and organizing social assistance where possible.

We will not impose ourselves but rather work slowly to build and gain trust and look to how we can help and provide care and support.

PRADET is working with Saude Mental Case Managers, the National Hospital and MSS to provide assistance and referrals to other services.

If you are aware of people in Dili who you think may be homeless and who you think need assistance then you can call PRADET on 780403103/78041671 and let us know the location and we will visit them.

PRADET believes that some people become alienated from their families because of their mental illness and their families may ignore their needs because they can no longer cope. Our experience shows that many families are unaware that there are health services and medication that might assist their family member.

Women can be particularly vulnerable in homelessness.

The Dalan Ninin Team is coordinated by Elda Cardosa who is a Mental Health worker and who has worked with PRADET for many years.

It is a very challenging work but nothing will change unless we begin this work.

For more information please contact PRADET through the above numbers.