

# Weekend Waiting List Initiative (Saturday Surgeries)



Advancing Child Healthcare through the  
Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital.



Donor Report  
Weekend Waiting Lists - Saturday Surgeries  
December 2018

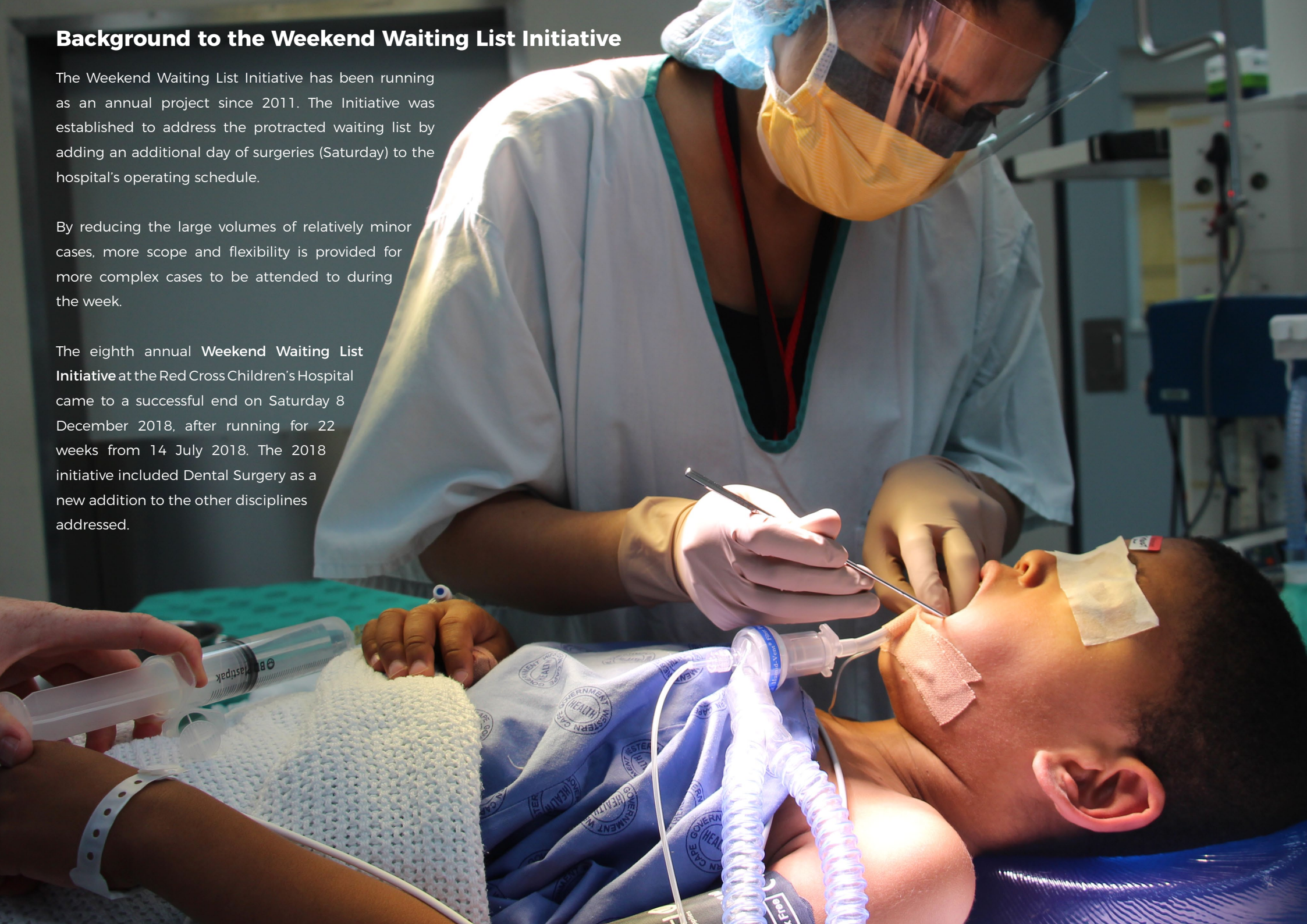


## Background to the Weekend Waiting List Initiative

The Weekend Waiting List Initiative has been running as an annual project since 2011. The Initiative was established to address the protracted waiting list by adding an additional day of surgeries (Saturday) to the hospital's operating schedule.

By reducing the large volumes of relatively minor cases, more scope and flexibility is provided for more complex cases to be attended to during the week.

The eighth annual **Weekend Waiting List Initiative** at the Red Cross Children's Hospital came to a successful end on Saturday 8 December 2018, after running for 22 weeks from 14 July 2018. The 2018 initiative included Dental Surgery as a new addition to the other disciplines addressed.





## Saturday surgery immediately stops Ismail's suffering

**Ismail** is a gentle and active 7-year old boy from Mitchell's Plain, Cape Town. In 2017, Ismail's journey with the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital started when he was rushed to the Emergency Centre after he suffered severe asthmatic attacks which led to tonsillectomy surgery.



The nurses then referred Ismail to the Developmental Unit at the Hospital where he was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ADS), a developmental disorder that affects communication and behaviour. Ismail struggles to express himself clearly and this has been hard on him and his family.

In August this year, Ismail was visiting the Development Unit for his check up and the doctor noticed that he needed an assessment of infected teeth and referred him to the Dental Unit at the Hospital. A few weeks later, Ismail experienced painful boils growing in his mouth because of the infected teeth and caused severe facial swelling. **The gumboils were bleeding and it was so sore, but Ismail is a strong boy, continued to eat and play while feeling the pain**" reports his distraught mother.

Even though the infected teeth and the boils on the gums were not life threatening, the doctors know the discomfort a child feels when they are in pain. Surgery was scheduled through the Weekend Waiting List Initiative and this was made possible by support from donor funding.

The dental surgery took place on a Saturday morning and was fortunate to have all his infected teeth removed. Ismail is back home with his family and is now able to eat, sleep and play without worrying about pain.

Without this programme, Ismail would have been suffering and on pain killers, still waiting for surgery.





The **2018** Weekend Waiting List initiative assisted **138** patients whose appointment dates for surgery was initially scheduled for later dates due to emergency and more life threatening surgeries taking preference. The following surgeries took place on Saturdays as part of the Weekend Waiting List Initiative for 2018:

- **28 x General Paediatric Surgery**  
Minor operations such as hernia operations or removal of cysts, usually non-life threatening
- **15 x Paediatric Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Surgery**  
A wide range of surgeries of the head and neck, including the ear, nose and throat regions
- **31 x \*Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI scans)**  
An MRI can take an hour to do and it is imperative that the patient lies still as any movement interferes with the clarity of the images obtained. For young children, they often need to be sedated as they are not able to lie still for long periods of time. This has recently resulted in a longer waiting list for planned MRI's - emergency MRI scans are usually done immediately.
- **18 x Orthopaedic Surgery**  
Surgery concerned with conditions involving the musculoskeletal system
- **20 x Plastic Surgery**  
Reconstructive surgery which includes craniofacial surgery, hand surgery, microsurgery, and the treatment of burns.
- **10 x Urology Surgery**  
Operations to correct congenital abnormalities of the penis, circumcisions, operations to move undescended testicles into the scrotum, hernia repairs, cystoscopy (looking in to the bladder) with various added procedures for children with urinary tract infections.
- **16 x Dental Surgery**  
Tooth extractions and fillings performed where oral hygiene warrants dental management under general anaesthesia



**Sr Rieyaana Philander - Professional Theatre Nurse**

"Every week the less complex surgeries are cancelled due to time constraints as these take longer in theatre. It's a terrible feeling sending patients home who sometimes come from far to have their surgeries. Those patients would be nil per mouth for the whole day only to be told the theatre cannot accommodate them on the day. The Weekend Waiting Lists surgeries are specifically aimed at patients who are well enough to have surgery and return home on the same day. It is a relief to us as medical staff to accommodate them and make sure they receive their life changing surgeries."



# Impact of Weekend Waiting List Initiative

## 943 Patients treated since 2011 up to 2018

### 2011

Duration: 22 Oct - 10 Dec

(8 Weeks)

Disciplines: ENT and General Paediatric Surgery

Number of patients treated: **54**

### 2012

Duration: 1 Sept - 24 Nov

(12 Weeks)

Disciplines: ENT, General Paediatric and Plastic Surgery

Number of patients treated: **87**

### 2013

Duration: 7 Sept - 26 Oct

(8 Weeks)

Disciplines: ENT and General Paediatric Surgery

Number of patients treated: **79**

### 2014

Duration: 5 Jul - 29 Nov

(20 Weeks)

Disciplines: General Paediatric Surgery, ENT and MRI

Number of patients treated: **155**

### 2015

Duration: 4 Jul - 21 Nov

(21 Weeks)

Disciplines: General Paediatric Surgery, ENT, MRI and Orthopaedic Surgery

Number of patients treated: **152**

### 2016

Duration: 2 Jul - 10 Dec

(24 Weeks)

Disciplines: General Paediatric Surgery, ENT, MRI and Orthopaedic Surgery

Number of patients treated: **132**

### 2017

Duration: 1 Jul - 9 Dec

(24 Weeks)

Disciplines: General Paediatric Surgery, ENT, MRI, Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery and Urology

Number of patients treated: **146**

### 2018

Duration: 14 Jul - 8 Dec

(22 Weeks)

Disciplines: General Paediatric Surgery, ENT, MRI, Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Urology and Dental Surgery

Number of patients treated: **138**

## Conclusion

Our heartfelt and sincere appreciation extends to each and every one of our loyal donors for contributing to this special Weekend Waiting Lists Project. Your support of this Project has so far supported 943 Patients since 2011 - 138 Patients in 2018 at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital.

**Thank you so much for your generous and ongoing support.**

[www.childrenshospitaltrust.org.za](http://www.childrenshospitaltrust.org.za)

*Thank You !*

