

Australian Volunteers Program in Papua New Guinea

In 2020-21 the Australian Volunteers Program in Papua New Guinea supported 11 volunteers, five in-country assignments and seven partner organisations.

'The assignment has been successful, exceeding initial expectations, which is all credit to the volunteer. He has been an asset and we'd like him to stay involved with the organisation.'

– Partner organisation spokesperson

In 2020-21 in Papua New Guinea, the program supported:

7
partner organisations

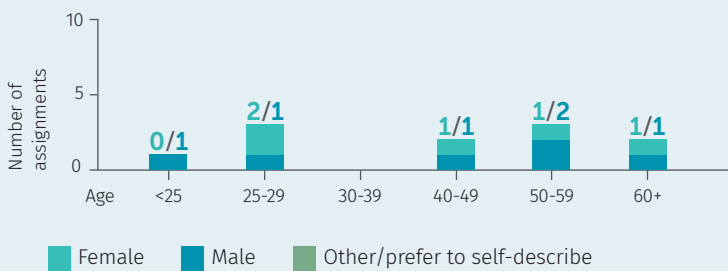
2
partner organisation with Impact Grants

11
volunteers

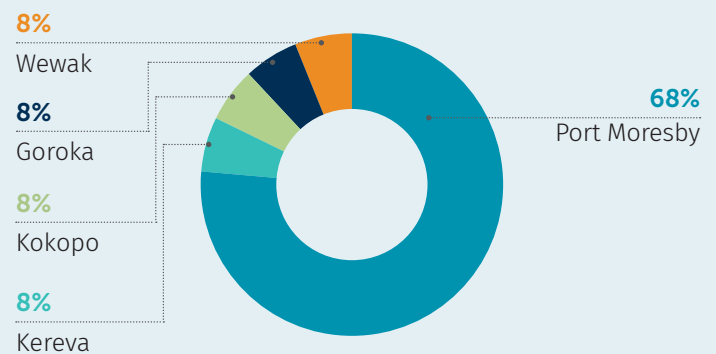
8 remote assignments
5 in-country assignments

Gender and age of volunteers

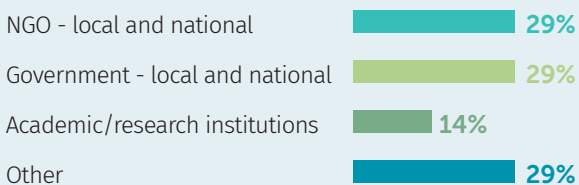
Women 45% Men 55%



Location of assignments



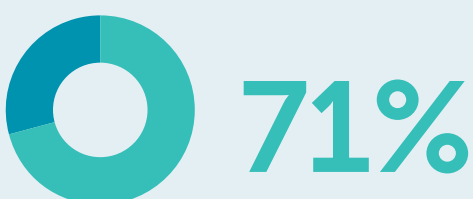
Most common types of partner organisations



Most common professions of volunteers



71% of partner organisations were satisfied or very satisfied with the volunteer assignment



100% of volunteers were satisfied or very satisfied with the program



* The above data is drawn from reports completed by volunteers and partner organisations. Responses were not received from all volunteers and partner organisations, and not all respondents provided a response to every question.

In 2020-21, in accordance with Australia's COVID-19 Development Response Plan, the Australian Volunteers Program supported partner organisations to implement their response and recovery efforts, aligned with the Papua New Guinea's local and national priorities.

During this period, the program supported non-government organisations, government bodies, academic institutions, as well as other sectors.

Seven remote volunteers supported organisations such as Gazelle Administration, Cricket PNG, the Port Moresby Nature Park, Kokopo Vunamami Urban Local Level Government, the PNG Institute of Medical Resources and HELP Resources. 2020-21 has been characterised by the unprecedented impacts of COVID-19. Despite high levels of uncertainty, Papua New Guinea were one of the few regions able to mobilise in-country volunteers during this period, with five in-country assignments supporting partner organisations in the health sector.

The program strengthened relationships with partner organisations during this period, enhancing their readiness to host volunteers. Five webinars were delivered to 52 partner organisations, covering topics such as gender equity, fundraising, sport in development and climate action.

Solar Solutions PNG received a small grant through the Australian Volunteers Program Impact Fund. This grant will aid urgent power, water, and safety issues for the Tubuserea Health Centre, which serves children, young people and elderly women from Motuan coastal villages.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) also received support from the Returned Australian Volunteer Network's Go Back<>Give Back initiative, supporting ADRA to provide English language classes for people in remote areas of Papua New Guinea.

The program celebrated and promoted international volunteering through social media updates provided to DFAT Post and a newspaper article featuring Australian volunteers at Australia Day celebrations.



Australian volunteer Jodie Stewart (left) pictured with her counterpart Beddie Jubille at Gazelle District Administration in East New Britain Province. During both her in-country and remote volunteering assignments in 2020 (Jodie was repatriated due to COVID-19) working as an Early Childhood Educator, Jodie raised community awareness on the importance of early childhood for children's development and developed training for people to become early childhood teachers. Photo: supplied by Jodie Stewart.

Spotlight on Cricket PNG

Cricket PNG is responsible for Papua New Guinea's national cricket programs, teams, and community development initiatives. In 2020 and 2021, Australian volunteer, Isanga Nainhabo, completed two remote assignments to support Cricket PNG to develop key strategic, marketing, communication and operational documents.

Drawing on Isanga's technical and specialised knowledge and expertise, Cricket PNG staff developed a five-year strategic plan (2021 to 2025) that identifies clear targets for community development, social change, and team results.

The organisation developed a marketing and communication plan to share the new strategic plan with stakeholders, such as the International Cricket Council. They also developed an operational plan to implement the strategic plan and embed core values such as gender equality, inclusion, diversity, and child protection.

The strategic plan offers a new sense of direction for Cricket PNG, setting clear and ambitious goals for on-and off-field activities and raising the profile of cricket in PNG through the development of a website and upgrading various media platforms. The operational plan provides a detailed approach to ensure these goals are achieved, based on a shared understanding among staff and stakeholders.

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png@australianvolunteers.com

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