



Australian  
Volunteers

Australian  
Aid

# Australian Volunteers Program Federated States of Micronesia

Australian volunteers have supported partner organisations in Federated States of Micronesia to achieve their development goals since 1990. The Australian Government's Australian Volunteers Program continues this rich history.

The Australian Volunteers Program develops long-term, mutually respectful partnerships with organisations across the Pacific, Asia, and Africa to contribute to locally led change and the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The program aims to:

- Support partner organisations to progress their development objectives
- Increase program participants' cultural awareness and build stronger connections across countries
- Increase key stakeholders' appreciation of the value of volunteering

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Volunteer Special Education Teacher Trainer Julianne Lazarus with Head Teacher Grace Rudolph at Akoyikoyi School in Penia Village, Weno Island, Chuuk. Photo: Darren James

# 1

Australian volunteer Josh Hopkins and Education Consultant Aileen Otoko, at the Department of Education offices, Weno Island, Chuuk. Photo: Darren James

# 2

Volunteer Property Maintenance Safety Trainer Tim Patrick and Atin John in the maintenance workshop at the Akoyikoyi School in Penia Village, Weno Island, Chuuk. Photo: Darren James

## Our work in Federated States of Micronesia

Our team in Federated States of Micronesia works closely with our partners to understand their priorities and objectives. Together with our partners, we identify how the program can support them and how that support might change over time.

The program provides support across a range of development priorities in Federated States of Micronesia, including:

- Improving the quality of basic education
- Women's social and economic empowerment
- Disability inclusiveness
- Human rights
- Disaster risk management
- Climate change

In Federated States of Micronesia, we partner with organisations working in a broad range of sectors, including health, disaster management and climate change, environmental conservation, disabilities and gender. Program partners are primarily local and national NGOs, INGOs and government agencies.

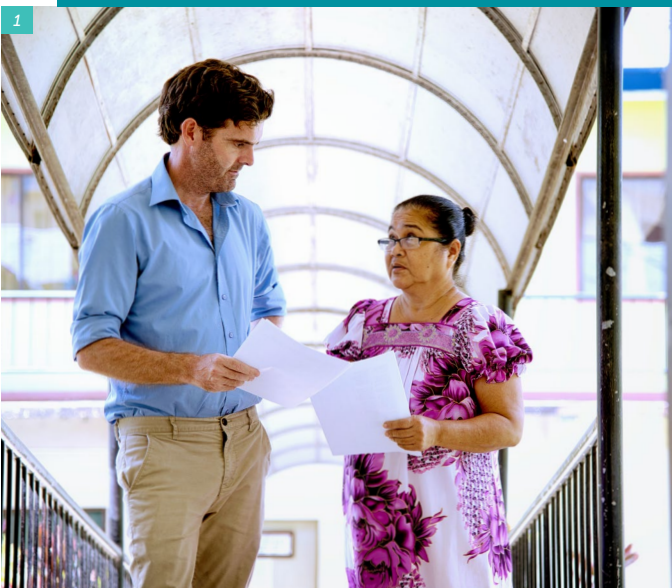
Most volunteer assignments are with partners in Chuuk and Pohnpei. The program also supports partners through remote volunteer assignments.

The program facilitates opportunities for partners to connect with each other, exchange knowledge and share experiences. For example, partners participate in online and face-to-face workshops that focus on specific sectors or topics such as disability inclusion, gender equality and safeguarding.

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Through the Australian Volunteers Program, we have seen positive changes in our school system. KSPN has received a Speech Pathologist Trainer, Autistic Teacher Trainer, Human Resource Mentor and a Remote Policy Review Officer through the program. These volunteers have provided tremendous support. We have seen an increase in positive awareness from parents and families of children living with disability through ongoing workshops and training conducted by volunteers.”

Berla Nena, Secretary – Kosrae Special Parent's Network



Since 2018 the program in Federated States of Micronesia has supported

**15+**  
partner  
organisations

**35+**  
Australian  
volunteers

**35+**  
volunteer  
assignments

**3**  
small  
grants

## Small grants

From time to time, our partners can apply for small grants to support their vital work and progress towards achieving their development objectives.

Small grants have supported over 200 partners to deliver hundreds of projects across the program. Projects have been across a range of thematic areas including gender equality, disability and social inclusion, climate action and organisational strengthening.

## Australian organisations

We also partner with Australian organisations who share our commitment to locally led change. We support existing partnerships between overseas partners and Australian organisations and identify opportunities for new partnerships. Australian partners contribute to skills and knowledge exchange and support volunteer recruitment.

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*Christina Stinnett, President of the Chuuk Womens Council, and Australian volunteer Jaclyn McCosker in Weno Island, Chuuk.  
Photo: Darren James*

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*“ Australian volunteers realise shared goals, objectives and development outcomes. Australian volunteers not only share their skills and knowledge, but also learn from local counterparts, gaining mutual benefits from the program.”*

*Apai Rokotuni, Deputy Regional Director, Central and North Pacific*

## About our volunteers

Our program is all about people – volunteers, partners and the communities in which they live and work.

We value volunteers who are open to mutual learning and skills exchange, and who are committed to contributing to partners' priorities in support of locally led change.

We are committed to ensuring that international volunteering is inclusive and accessible to Australians from a range of backgrounds, with diverse perspectives, identities and abilities. We recognise the

unique strengths and skills that people with diverse backgrounds and experiences offer, and we work with volunteers to remove barriers they may face.

Each volunteer assignment requires specific skills and experience. Australian volunteers work in a broad range of sectors including community and social development, health, science, engineering and architecture, skilled trades, education, disaster and emergency management, gender equality and child protection.

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*Fishing on Weno Island, Chuuk.  
Photo: Darren James*

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*Monique Panaligan and Australian volunteer Disability Support Officer Nikisha Smith in Kolonia, Pohnpei.  
Photo: Darren James*



### In-country

*In-country volunteering enables volunteers and partners to share their skills, knowledge and culture, and form long-lasting relationships along the way.*



### Remote

*Through remote volunteering Australians are supporting organisations overseas to achieve their development goals anywhere, anytime.*



### Hybrid

*By combining remote and in-country phases, hybrid volunteering offers our partners and volunteers flexibility while still allowing for genuine connections and meaningful skill sharing.*



# Spotlight on Kosrae Special Parent Network

Kosrae Special Parent Network (KSPN) is a non-governmental organisation established in 2015 under the Kosrae Special Education Program (SPED).

This organisation is located in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia. KSPN was established as part of a strengthening education services initiative provided to children living with disability. The Network consists of parents/guardians of children with severe disabilities and currently has 42 active members.

KSPN seeks to advocate for the human rights and fundamental freedom for all people living with disability in Kosrae, as well as inclusive educational services, a quality healthcare system, employment opportunities and social services.

KSPN's partnership with the Australian Volunteers Program began in 2022 and, to date, the organisation has been awarded one Impact Fund grant from the program to help fund key projects.

With support from the program, KSPN has already seen positive changes in their school system, thanks in part to Australian volunteers, Patricia Miles and Tanya Govey, who worked with KSPN as an Autistic Teacher Trainer and Speech Pathologist Trainer, respectively.

According to the partner organisation, Patricia provided tremendous support and training to teachers, developing training packages for teachers' use, modifying and improving the curriculum, supporting teaching staff in class planning, and developing key learning programs.

'Thanks to Patricia's assistance, we have seen positive awareness through ongoing workshops and training with parents and families of children living with disability,' says Berla Nena, Secretary for Kosrae Special Parent Network.

Tanya Govey worked closely with Kosrae Department of Health and Kosrae Special Education Program staff to identify and modify appropriate screening tools for early intervention in speech pathology. Tanya focused on increasing the capacity of staff to confidently use audiology equipment. She also provided medical staff with effective autism and assessment strategies, and assisted teaching staff in understanding and implementing Augmentative and Alternative Communication in the classroom.



## The Australian Volunteers Program is guided by principles that ensure we



Support locally led change



Grow strong relationships and partnerships



Value volunteering



Evolve good practice and embrace innovation



Enhance diversity and inclusion



Ensure accountability and value learning

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