



Australian Volunteers Program Kiribati

The Australian Volunteers Program is proud to support organisations in Kiribati to support their development goals and continues a long and rich history of Australians volunteering in Kiribati.

Funded by the Australian Government, the Australian Volunteers Program seeks to develop long-term, mutually respectful partnerships with organisations across the Pacific, Asia, and Africa to contribute to locally led change and the realisation of the UN 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

Australian volunteer Policy Adviser
Patrick Chan and Council Clerk
Akoia Teabi together at Betio
Town Council.
Photo: Darren James

Volunteer Logistics and
Procurement Co-ordinator
Michelle Sheehan travelling with
colleagues from the Facilities
Management Unit, Ministry of
Education, Tarawa.
Photo: Darren James

Australian Volunteer Julie Lamb
working with colleagues at the
Kiribati School and Centre for
Children with Special Needs.
Photo: Darren James

Our work in Kiribati

Our team in Kiribati 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 Kiribati, including:

- Health
- Education and special education
- Law, justice and governance
- Disability inclusion
- Gender equality
- Environmental resilience
- Sport

In Kiribati, our partner organisations currently include government agencies and civil society organisations.

The program supports partners through volunteer assignments undertaken in-country or remotely. We work with partner organisations across Kiribati, with current partner organisations based in South Tarawa, North Tarawa and Kiritimati Island.

The program facilitates opportunities for partner organisations to connect with each other, exchange knowledge and share experiences. For example, partner organisations 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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Counsellors at the centre have enhanced their capacity thanks to the training the Australian Volunteer provided. She assisted staff with developing their ability to draft reports and look into issues more deeply. She also helped us with mentoring and debriefing to help solve issues and to try to respond to client cases better.”

Teretia Tokam, Executive Director - Kiribati Women and Children Support Centre



Since 2018
the program
in Kiribati has
supported

25+

partner
organisations

40+

Australian
volunteers

55+

volunteer
assignments

11

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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*Boats on the water in South Tarawa.
Photo: Darren James*

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"I love the work that we do in supporting our partners to meet their development goals, matches the need of our partners."

Abitara Tekeke, Country Program Manager – Australian Volunteers Program, Kiribati

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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*Ryan West, volunteer Legal Advisor, and colleague Ruuta Neeru, Law Clerk, at the Office of the People's Lawyer, Betio, South Tarawa.
Photo: Darren James*

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*Tekauno sells decorative handicrafts from a community market shack by the main road in Banreaba village.
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.

Strengthening capacity at Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs

Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs (KSCCSN) is the only educational institution dedicated to serving children with disabilities in Kiribati, supporting 330 students from preschool to primary school.

KSCCSN has benefited from the efforts of two Australian volunteers, Arthur and Barbara Morris, who provided mentoring in finance and teacher training.

KSCCSN operates primarily through grants, donations, and contributions from parents to sustain its operations. As a Finance and Administration Mentor, Arthur's efforts significantly strengthened KSCCSN's financial management practices, ensuring sustainability and increasing donor confidence. He assisted with grant applications, preparing budgets, and establishing financial policies and procedures.

Barbara, in her role as an English Language Teacher Mentor, focused on strengthening KSCCSN's teaching strategies. She dedicated her time to mentoring teachers, conducting workshops, and providing individual support to enhance language skills among teachers and students. Barbara's collaborative approach and resource development efforts were instrumental in improving English language learning outcomes for students.

Barbara and Arthur were also invited to be part of the KSCCSN management team, attending Board, advisory and monitoring meetings with the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their collaborative efforts fostered a supportive learning environment, empowered teachers and students, and contributed to the school's goals of inclusivity and educational excellence. Through their dedication and contributions, Arthur and Barbara played key roles in helping KSCCSN achieve its developmental objectives and enhance its overall effectiveness as an educational institution.



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

**Australian
Volunteers**

**Australian
Aid**

Bairiki Main Road, BPA Building, South Tarawa, Kiribati
kiribati@australianvolunteers.com

australianvolunteers.com
#AusVols @ausvols

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