



# Australian Volunteers Program Papua New Guinea

Australian volunteers have supported partner organisations in Papua New Guinea to achieve their development goals since 1964. 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

[australianvolunteers.com](https://australianvolunteers.com)



## Our work in PNG

Australian volunteer Sustainable Development Team Mentor Melissa Fleming and Rocka Manua, Sales Support Officer, demonstrate a model solar powered water pump system at Solar Solutions PNG in Port Moresby. Photo: Darren James

1

Jehu Lakatani, Children's Financial Literacy Project Officer, with Kerrie Noad, Australian volunteer Children's Financial Literacy Engagement Officer, at the Credit Union Foundation Australia in Port Moresby. Photo: Darren James

2

Australian volunteer Talent Academy Support Officer Anthony Healy and Development Officer Charlie Kene, AFL PNG, Port Moresby. Photo: Darren James

Our team in Papua New Guinea 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 Papua New Guinea, including:

- Heath
- Education
- IT
- Infrastructure
- Community and social development

In Papua New Guinea, we partner with organisations working in a broad range of sectors, including government and civil society and health. Program partners are primarily government agencies and local or national NGOs.

Volunteer assignments are with partners in Port Moresby, Goroka, Lae and Buka. 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.

“

*We envision Touching the Untouchables being able to explore, participate in and experience other aspects of community development in Papua New Guinea. We value our partnership with the Australian Volunteers Program, so we can continue to learn from the experience of Australian volunteers.”*

*Esther Silas – Director, Touching the Untouchables*

1



2



Since 2018  
the program  
in Papua New  
Guinea has  
supported

45+

partner  
organisations

125+

Australian  
volunteers

155+

volunteer  
assignments

6

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.

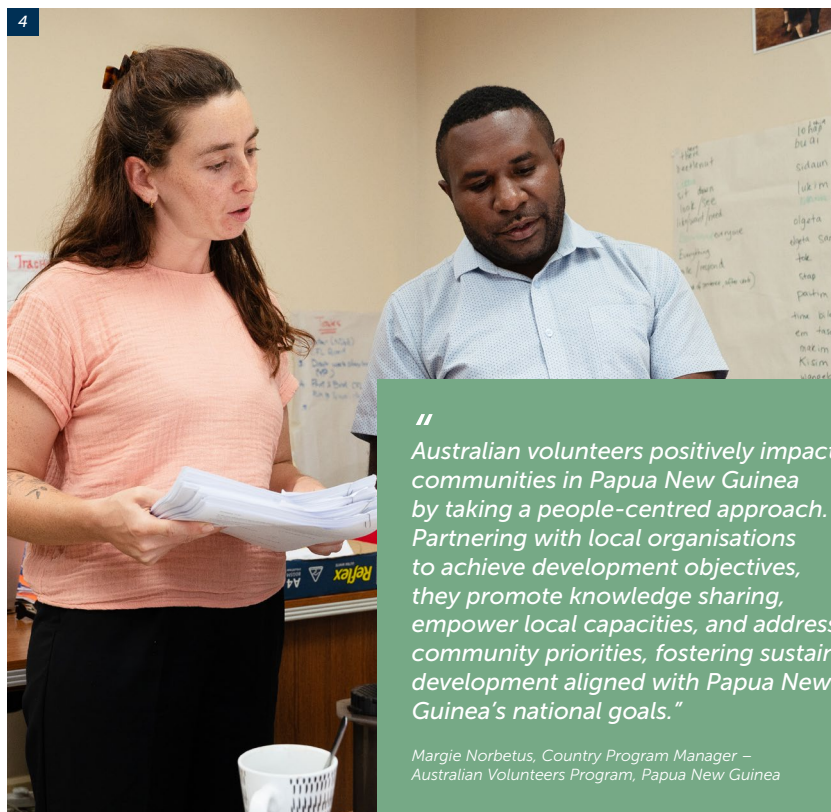
3

Clariza Kwembukie,  
Coordinator at Moresby  
Arts Theatre, Port Moresby.  
Photo: Darren James

4

Australian volunteer  
Monitoring Evaluation and  
Learning Coordinator for GEDSI  
Mikaela O'Neil with Tyson  
Maliken, MEL Officer, at the  
Credit Union Foundation  
Australia, Port Moresby.  
Photo: Darren James

4



“  
Australian volunteers positively impact communities in Papua New Guinea by taking a people-centred approach. Partnering with local organisations to achieve development objectives, they promote knowledge sharing, empower local capacities, and address community priorities, fostering sustainable development aligned with Papua New Guinea's national goals.”

Margie Norbetus, Country Program Manager –  
Australian Volunteers Program, Papua New Guinea

## 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.

5

Alphonse Aisi, Moresby Arts  
Theatre (MAT) Lighting Director,  
works alongside Australian  
volunteer Youth Arts Program  
Mentor Karen Berger at MAT,  
Port Moresby.  
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 the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Papua New Guinea is the country's only community-based nonprofit organisation dedicated to animal welfare.

Its mission is to provide sanctuary and care for abandoned and mistreated animals, while providing public outreach and education on animal welfare issues. The organisation identified a need to increase its capacity to effectively market its mission and raise funds to achieve its vision.

Australian volunteer Samantha Eismen joined the society as a Marketing and Fundraising Support Mentor. Her dedication, expertise, and commitment to the cause of animal welfare played an important role in driving positive change within the organisation. She strengthened the marketing and media skills of staff to enable them to improve the organisation's visibility, reputation, and fundraising capabilities. The society is now in a strong position for sustained growth and impact in its mission to advocate for the welfare of animals in Papua New Guinea.

Samantha supported staff to strengthen their skills and handle marketing and media challenges confidently and effectively. The team has since delivered successful fundraising events such as a golf tournament, which attracted a record number of participants and funds.

Samantha encouraged a culture of continuous learning and improvement within the organisation. She also introduced strategies such as leveraging social media platforms for marketing purposes to expand outreach and engagement with a broader audience. The adoption of customer relationship management tools also streamlined communication with sponsors and donors, facilitating better donor stewardship and long-term relationships. Samantha encouraged the organisation to embrace digital tools like Google storage, reducing reliance on paper-based documentation.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Papua New Guinea valued Samantha's contribution and her commitment to adapting to the local culture by learning the language. Her honest feedback facilitated fair communication, and her skills aligned with the organisation's needs.



## 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



**PNGAus Partnership**

The Australian Volunteers Program is funded by the Australian Government.  
The program is managed by AVI in a consortium with DT Global and Alinea International.

Level 2, CHM Corporate Park, Corner of Kawai Drive and  
Waigani Industrial Estate Drive Gordons Port Moresby  
[png@australianvolunteers.com](mailto:png@australianvolunteers.com)

[australianvolunteers.com](http://australianvolunteers.com)  
#AusVols @ausvols