

Australian Volunteers Program Republic of the Marshall Islands

Australian volunteers have supported partner organisations in Republic of the Marshall Islands to achieve their development goals since 1989. 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

Our work in Republic of the Marshall Islands

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Alson J. Kelen, Director of WAAN
AELON IN MAJEL (WAM), Majuro.
Photo: Darren James

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Renee Jack at her stall, Majuro.
Photo: Darren James

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Clandy Jack, a student
of traditional boat making,
WAM, Majuro.
Photo: Darren James

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Thomlino Longidrik, a student
of traditional boat making,
WAM, Majuro.
Photo: Darren James

Our team in Republic of the Marshall Islands 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 Republic of the Marshall Islands, including:

- Good governance
- Education
- Health
- Climate change resilience
- Sustainable economic development
- Empowerment of women and girls
- Domestic violence

In Republic of the Marshall Islands, we partner with organisations working in a broad range of sectors, including education and health. Program partners are mainly local or national NGOs.

Most volunteer assignments are with partners in Majuro. 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.

“

Canvasback Wellness Mission has thoroughly enjoyed working with Australian volunteers. They have been a huge help to our programs and advancing the mission of reversing non-communicable disease in The Republic of the Marshall Islands.”

Tanner Smith BSN, Regional Co-Director, Canvasback Wellness Mission

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Since 2018
the program in
Republic of the
Marshall Islands
has supported

10+

partner
organisations

15+

Australian
volunteers

20+

volunteer
assignments

1

small
grant

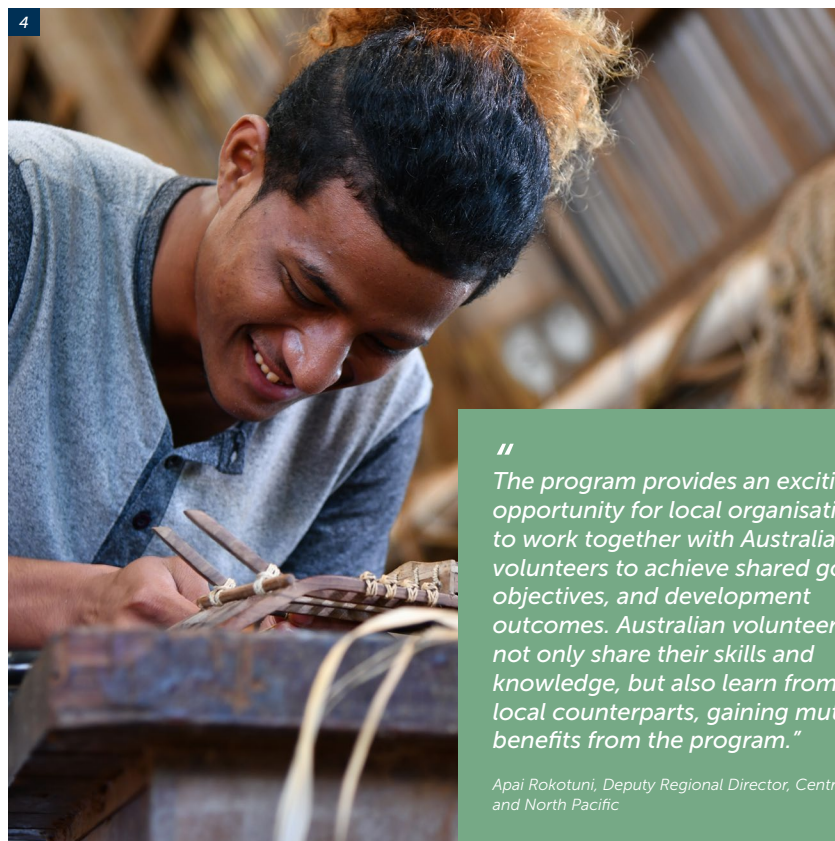
Small grants

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.



"The program provides an exciting opportunity for local organisations to work together with Australian volunteers to achieve 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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*Danny Marshall, a student of traditional boat making, WAM, Majuro.
Photo: Darren James*

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*Danny Marshall, a student of traditional boat making, WAM, Majuro.
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 Canvasback Wellness Mission

Canvasback Wellness Mission, a partner of the program since 2018, has been serving communities in Republic of the Marshall Islands since 2014.

Canvasback operates with the support of the local Ministry of Health on Majuro Atoll and collaborates with different stakeholders to run community health programs and public-school health programs targeting non-communicable disease prevention. The organisation employs qualified nurses and community health workers and contracts several other community health workers. They work across the Majuro Atoll to help increase health screening and treatment of diabetics, hypertension, and obese patients.

Canvasback Wellness Mission collaborated with the Australian Volunteers Program to improve its community outreach programs and expand its services to select communities on Majuro and three outer islands. With the assistance of volunteer Lauren Toll, who supported Canvasback Wellness Mission as a Public Health Educator through a remote assignment, the organisation launched a social marketing campaign on chronic disease, developed educational materials, and trained staff to continue community health programs.

During her assignment, Lauren played a vital role in establishing three community health workers and exercise programs in the outer islands, including the development of the Community Lifestyle Program and other community outreach activities. Additionally, Lauren assisted in creating educational materials and training local staff to ensure the continuity of the community health programs.

Valerie Weller also supported Canvasback Wellness Mission as a volunteer Diabetes Community Outreach Officer, assisting in the organisation's efforts to improve community health outreach programs and services. She provided solid support, knowledge and skills during her assignment and her contribution was highly regarded by senior staff at the organisation.



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**

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