



Australian Volunteers Program Solomon Islands

Australian volunteers have supported partner organisations in Solomon Islands to achieve their development goals since the 1960s. The 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

C

Strength and Conditioning Coaches Mary Teasanau (L) and Joachim Rande (C) with Australian volunteer Jack Doyle (R) at Solomon Islands National Institute of Sport. Photo: Ivan Utakenua

Our work in Solomon Islands

Our team in Solomon 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.

1

Microbiologist Hilda Zoloveke with Australian volunteer Emergency Nurse Advisor Frances Kennedy at the Solomon Islands National Referral Hospital, Honiara. Photo: Ivan Utakenua

The program provides support across a range of development priorities in Solomon Islands, including health, economic growth, education, governance, law and justice, and gender.

2

Indigenous Australian volunteer and Bundjalung Traditional Owner Cindy-Lou Togo (C), discussing marine use zones with rangers from the Pusju community in Solomon Islands as part of an Indigenous Conservation Knowledge Exchange. Photo: Alice Tamang

In Solomon Islands, we partner with a range of organisations, including government agencies and institutions, statutory bodies, civil society organisations and professional associations, working in a broad range of sectors.

The program supports partners through volunteer assignments undertaken in-country or remotely. While the majority of partners are based in Honiara, the program also supports partner organisations in the provinces of Solomon Islands.

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.

“With our Australian volunteer’s help, we have strengthened policy implementation and multi-stakeholder coordination at a national level to better address violence against women and children in Solomon Islands.”
Vaela Devesi, Director – Ministry of Women, Youth, Children & Family Affairs



Since 2018 the program in Solomon Islands has supported

50+ partner organisations

145+ Australian volunteers

185+ volunteer assignments

5 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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Australian volunteer Stuart Allardice (L) with Intern Student Natashar Diwa (R) and Tourism Officer Alison Tovongo (C) at the Tourism Division, Central Provincial Government on Tulagi Island.
Photo: Ivan Utakenua



“ I have always enjoyed being part of the journeys with our volunteers and partner organisations. The country teams play an integral role in helping to guide and nurture relationships being established, which is crucial to achieving positive outcomes of the assignments, both in the short and long term after the end of each assignment.”

Eve Aihunu, Country Program Manager - Australian Volunteers Program, Solomon Islands

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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Edwin Same (L) is shown exercises by Community Rehab Officer Pateson Kelimana (C) and volunteer Occupational Therapist and Mentor Joanna Cairney (R) at National Referral Hospital, Honiara.
Photo: Harjono Djyobisono

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Graham Mani, Talent Identification Officer, with Australian volunteer Talent Pathways Officer Josiah McCarthy, at the Solomon Islands National Institute of Sport (SINIS) in Honiara.
Photo: Ivan Utakenua



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 Solomon Islands National Institute of Sports

The Solomon Islands National Institute of Sport (SINIS) is the country's government-funded sporting institute.

It offers high-performance sports programs, services, and training facilities for athletes and coaches. SINIS was established in the lead up to the 2023 Pacific Games, which Solomon Islands hosted for the first time.

To support SINIS in the lead up and during the Pacific Games, Australian volunteers contributed their expertise to strengthen its operational capacity across a range of services and activities.

Volunteers contributed to strengthening well-being, physiotherapy, nutrition, and education. Through face-to-face interactions and continuous feedback, Shaun built trust and collaborated with local staff to develop robust well-being support systems for athletes. Johnny, a physiotherapist, supported staff to develop their technical expertise in assessment and management of sports injuries.

Isabelle, a nutritionist, focused on enhancing staff capabilities in dietary assessment and collaborative nutrition services. John, an Education Training Officer, spearheaded efforts to design and deliver effective tailored training programs for learners at SINIS.

SINIS coaching staff worked closely with Australian volunteers. Sam, a Strength and Conditioning Coach, provided hands-on training and mentorship to strengthen local staff capabilities and ensure equal access to training opportunities. Bianca, a Taekwondo Coach Mentor, forged partnerships with taekwondo unions to deliver high-quality training to athletes. Her guidance empowered local coaches and laid the foundation for coaches and athletes' continued growth.

Chloe's volunteer assignment as a Facility Operations Mentor focused on enhancing operational guidelines and promoting gender equality.

The volunteers empowered local staff, promoted inclusivity, and fostered collaboration within the organisation. Their contributions have equipped SINIS with the tools, knowledge, and expertise needed to continue its mission of sports development and community engagement.



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

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Aid 

Level 3, Unit 20, Central Plaza, Mendana Avenue, Honiara
solomons@australianvolunteers.com
+677 277 35

australianvolunteers.com
#AusVols @ausvols