

Australian
Volunteers

Australian
Aid 

Australian Volunteers Program Tuvalu

Australian volunteers have supported partner organisations in Tuvalu to achieve their development goals since 2017. 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

Our work in Tuvalu

Australian volunteer Finance Mentor Doris Cunningham with Fuafuaga Tui, Junior Clerk, at the Tuvalu Association of Non-Government Organization offices in Funafuti. Photo: Darren James

1

Fakaapoga Esekia. Photo: Darren James

2

Australian volunteer Doris Cunningham with Fuafuaga Tui, Junior Clerk, at the Tuvalu Association of Non-Government Organization offices in Funafuti. Photo: Darren James

Our team in Tuvalu 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 Tuvalu, including:

- Governance
- Economic growth
- Education
- Health
- Environmental resilience and climate change adaption
- Gender equality and disability inclusion
- Private sector development in Tuvalu

In Tuvalu, we partner with organisations working in a broad range of sectors including government, education, health, economics

and financial management, and disaster and emergency management and environmental protection. Program partners include government institutions, NGOs and the private sector.

Most volunteer assignments are with partners in Funafuti, the capital city of Tuvalu, although some assignments may require travel to outer islands by sea, in which case strict safety, health and security measures are taken to reduce any potential risks. 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.

"

Our Australian volunteer's assignment was to assist us in developing a plan for a new office. We made a very good team. She was very patient with the limited technical assistance from our side and was a very understanding person to work with. As a result, the new office plan was accepted and endorsed by the Governing Board of the Tuvalu Red Cross Society."

Ms Tagifoe Tauetia Taomia, Secretary General - Tuvalu Red Cross

1



2



Since 2018
the program
in Tuvalu has
supported

10+

partner
organisations

15+

Australian
volunteers

15+

in-country
volunteer
assignments

5+

remote
volunteer
assignments

2

small
grants

Small grants

Through the Impact Fund, we provide small grants of up to AUD\$10,000 to our partners to support their vital work and progress towards achieving their development objectives.

The Impact Fund has supported over 200 partners to deliver hundreds of projects. Projects have been across a range of thematic areas including gender equality, disability and social inclusion, climate action, organisational strengthening, and COVID-19 response and recovery.

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

Kaai Fanoiga, Acting Director of Education, and Gabi McMahon, Australian volunteer Adviser Child Protection Policy Implementation at the Education Department facilities in Funafuti. Photo: Darren James



“
Tuvalu remains a key country in the Pacific region, and we want to continue working with our partners on specific areas of economic and climate resilience to ensure that Tuvaluan organisations and individuals are able to thrive in their national and global spaces of focus.”

Isireli Vulaca, Country Program Manager – Australian Volunteers Program, Tuvalu

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.

4

Traditional dancing at a local event. Photo: Darren James

5

Australian volunteer Gabi McMahon celebrating with colleagues from the Education Department in Funafuti. Photo: Darren James



In-country

International volunteering is an incredible experience. It's an opportunity for volunteers and partners to share their skills and culture, while making a tangible difference to communities.



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 Development Bank of Tuvalu

The Development Bank of Tuvalu (DBT) was established in June 1993, with the primary purpose of carrying on general banking business in accordance with accepted international banking principles and practices. DBT has been a partner of the Australian Volunteers Program since 2018.

Today, the Bank has expanded over the years from providing financial and advisory assistance to the public, to diversifying its financial products to include business and personal loans. Through its services, the Bank focuses on lending to promote economic development through the agriculture, fisheries and tourism sectors.

DBT's main priorities include promoting the participation of Tuvalu citizens and residents in the economic and social development, rural development (grass root people), and stimulating export-oriented and import competitive activities to strengthen the economic independence of Tuvalu and promoting a savings scheme on outer islands.

Australian volunteer Sandra Joy Griffin completed a remote volunteering role as an Enterprise Risk Management Technical Assistant with DBT. During her assignment, Sandra supported DBT in growing the organisation and building the capacity and knowledge of staff, who required technical support in the risk management framework. She also assisted DBT in developing tools and work products related to the Risk Management System.

With Sandra's support, DBT was able to plan and conduct risk assessment and workshop exercises across the organisation, which assisted each department in identifying and documenting risks. Sandra also supported DBT with producing a draft risk management policy and procedure, a first for the bank. Sandra demonstrated excellent communication skills, a warm personality and she consistently supported and motivated staff throughout her assignment.

DBT's successful involvement with the Australian Volunteers Program has helped the organisation grow and build the capacity of its staff.



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 

arokotuni@australianvolunteers.com

australianvolunteers.com
#AusVols @ausvols