

INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS

International volunteering with
the Australian Volunteers Program

Australian
Volunteers

Australian
Aid 



Indigenous Australian volunteer, Worrin Williams (R) with a community member (L), at the completion of her assignment in South Africa, 2019. Photo credit: Sabrina Chielens.

The Australian Volunteers Program, an initiative funded by the Australian Government, matches a broad range of skilled Australians with partner organisations overseas, to support these organisations to achieve their own development goals. International volunteering makes a valuable contribution to communities and organisations overseas, and helps to change lives for the better.

Volunteering is a life-changing opportunity. Volunteers share skills, learn new perspectives and connect with another culture.

The Australian Volunteers Program is committed to engaging with Indigenous Australians to ensure equitable and culturally safe access to international volunteering.

Indigenous Pathways focuses on expanding and strengthening Indigenous participation in the program by providing flexible and tailored support and creating closer ties to community.

We are looking to connect and collaborate with Indigenous organisations to achieve better outcomes for our volunteers, our partners, and our communities.

By connecting with the Australian Volunteers Program, your organisation will:



DEVELOP staff confidence, strategic thinking, flexibility and resourcefulness by encouraging staff to become international volunteers



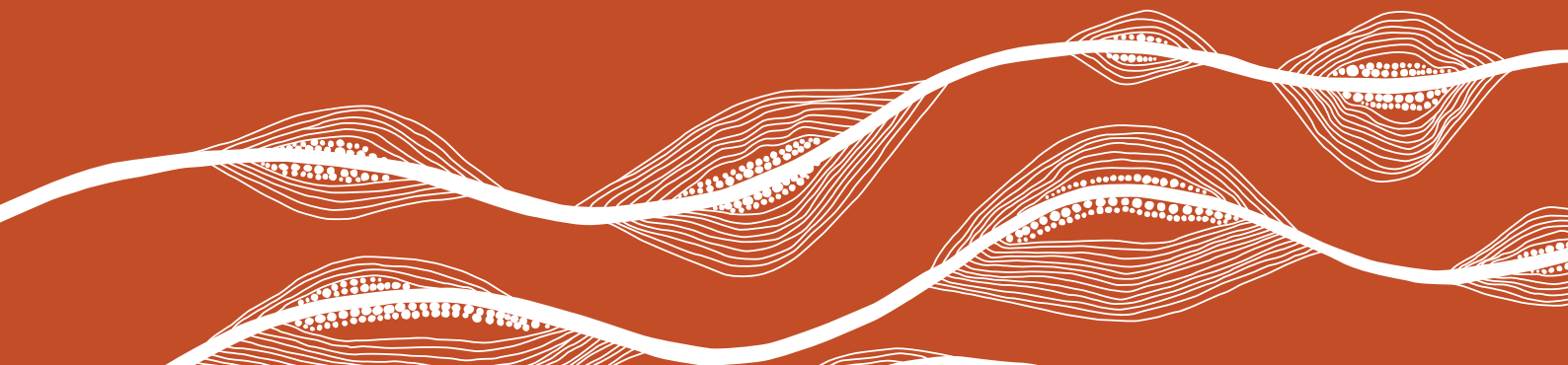
CONTRIBUTE to sustainable development through projects that offer mutual benefits to your organisation and overseas partners



GROW existing networks and forge new partnerships with organisations across the Indo-Pacific that align with your priorities



CONNECT with Indigenous people, communities, and organisations across a range of countries and share knowledge unique to the context you are working in



Australians are supported to volunteer with partner organisations located across 26 countries, on assignments that range from two weeks to two years in length. Whether on assignment in-country or remotely from Australia, volunteers share their skills to support change that is sustainable and locally-led.

We are proud to work with more than 600 community, government and not-for-profit organisations across a range of sectors, including:



Health and wellbeing



Land and sea conservation



Business development



Arts, culture and design



Education and training



Tourism



Language revival and preservation



Community and social development



Law, justice and governance



Media, communications and design



Skilled trades





VISION

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culture are celebrated as an integral part of the Australian Volunteers Program, through inclusive, equitable, flexible and strength-based approaches.

VALUES

INCLUSIVE: Ensuring that the program is culturally aware, recognises the importance of community and family and appreciates the intersectionality that shapes contemporary Indigenous identities.

EQUITABLE: Engaging the Indigenous community in a meaningful way and encouraging and supporting Indigenous volunteers with adequate support appropriate to their individual, social and cultural needs.

FLEXIBLE: Providing adaptable and reflexive approaches that meet the aspirations of Indigenous volunteers, build skills and experience in a variety of fields and meet the needs of communities in Australia and overseas.

STRENGTH-BASED: Enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to draw on their unique skills, expertise and experience and benefit from the people-to-people exchange of these skills with the global community.

Left: Returned volunteers and the Indigenous Programs Coordinator at a return learning workshop, Melbourne 2019.

“I’m a proud Noongar woman and part of the Australian Volunteers Program’s Indigenous Pathways, and the experience has been really positive. I have received so much help and support from the Indigenous staff – this has really helped me with my confidence and feeling valid as a professional. I have found the Indigenous Volunteer Support and Advisory Panel to be so helpful; getting to yarn with someone who has walked my path and can provide insight and support has been invaluable.”

— Victoria Langmead, pictured below on assignment in Mongolia, 2020



We understand the importance of cultural safety and ensure volunteers are supported every step of the way.

WHERE WE OPERATE



- Dedicated Indigenous Programs Coordinator
- Indigenous Volunteer Support and Advisory Panel
- Tailored assignment design
- Modest volunteer allowance
- Preparing to volunteer briefing, in-country orientation and language training
- Ongoing support from an experienced in-country management team
- Indigenous alumni network

For more information about how your organisation can be involved, please contact the Indigenous Programs Coordinator

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Australian Volunteers Program acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. We recognise the continuing connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People have to their lands and waters, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We would also like to specifically pay our respects to the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which our head office is located.

The Australian Volunteers Program is managed by AVI, and delivered in consortium with Cardno Emerging Markets and Alinea Whitelum.

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