

INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS

International volunteering with
the Australian Volunteers Program

Australian
Volunteers

Australian
Aid 



Above: Images from volunteer assignments and projects across some of the countries the Australian Volunteers Program works in. Consent obtained.

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 ensuring equitable and culturally safe access to international volunteering by providing flexible and tailored support and creating closer ties to community.

Indigenous Pathways has a strong focus on connecting Indigenous people and organisations from Australia, with Indigenous organisations and communities internationally, to collaborate on projects that are mutually beneficial and build meaningful relationships across cultures.

Join the Australian Volunteers Program to share your skills and gain new perspectives, while connecting with another culture.

By volunteering internationally, you will:



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



DEVELOP confidence, strategic thinking and leadership skills, as well as observing new ways of working



GROW existing networks and forge new relationships with people and organisations across the Indo-Pacific that align with your area of work



CONTRIBUTE to sustainable development through projects that offer mutual benefits to you and communities overseas



Australians are supported to volunteer with partner organisations located across 26 countries, on assignments that range from one month 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.

Volunteers contribute across a range of sectors including:



Health and wellbeing



Land and sea conservation



Business development



Arts, culture and design



Education and training



Tourism



Museums and galleries



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: Indigenous Australian Volunteers, Partner Organisation staff and local community members in Malaita Province Solomon Islands, during an Indigenous Conservation Knowledge Exchange. Photo: Bella Laifoo

We are proud to work with more than 300 community, government and not-for-profit organisations across a range of sectors.



Program partner WWF and the Australian Volunteers Program at a women's forum in Solomon Islands. Photo: Alice Tamang



Staff and members of Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei Cakaudrove in Fiji with Australian volunteer Aunty Rose Tomsana, and Australian Volunteers Program staff. Photo: Alice Tamang



A meeting at Kathmandu University, Nepal, an Australian Volunteers Program partner organisation. Photo: Teagan Glenane



Partner organisation Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure in Samoa inspecting for adherence to correct building standards at a construction site. Photo: Darren James

Stories from
previous projects



WHERE WE OPERATE



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

- Dedicated Indigenous Programs team
- Tailored assignment design
- Flights, accommodation and a modest volunteer allowance
- Medical and travel insurance
- 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 you or your organisation can be involved, please contact the Indigenous Pathways team

M: 0422 763 630

E: indigenouspathways@australianvolunteers.com

W: australianvolunteers.com/indigenous-pathways

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 DT Global and Alinea International.

Artwork © Penny Evans 2020

Australian
Volunteers

Australian
Aid 