



Australian Government
AusAID

The Australian Government is working in partnership to send Australian volunteers overseas through the Australian Volunteers for International Development program.



Australian Volunteers

for International Development

Skilled, business and youth volunteers building capacity and globally contributing to development

As part of the Government's Australian Volunteers for International Development program managed through AusAID, Austraining International mobilises skilled, youth and business volunteers on short and long term assignments across Asia, the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Austraining International is a specialist project management and international development organisation currently managing Australian Government-funded volunteers in over 25 countries. Austraining has successfully supported more than 4000 volunteer assignments since 2001.

Volunteers are an important part of Australia's aid program. By contributing their time and skills to local development and non-government organisations, volunteers undertake an effective form of aid delivery. They contribute to reducing poverty and long-term development, and enable cross-cultural exchange between Australia and other countries, supporting Australia as a global citizen.

Austraining offers a diverse range of opportunities for skilled Australians from



all walks of life to become involved in volunteering. Our programs are inclusive and flexible and our in-country support and post assignment engagement are key to our ongoing program success. Volunteers are well supported with pre-departure training, on-going medical and emergency support, flights, accommodation, and living allowances and assistance with re-entry to Australia.

Austraining believes in the value of partnerships as a means of achieving development results and enhancing global citizenship in Australians. Working together with partners—Australian Business Volunteers (ABV) and Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation and

Austraining takes a long-term, programmatic approach to the sourcing and development of volunteer assignments which are driven by host organisation needs and Australian and Partner Government development priorities.

World University Service Canada (CECI-WUSC)—Austraining has access to more than 70 years experience in managing over 10 000 volunteers for international development.

ABOVE: Tamara Baillie enjoying work on her assignment as Communications Officer with Action Center for City Development in Vietnam. Photo: Austraining International





Ben Clare

Assignment One: Training Officer—
Blind and Visually Impaired Services

Host Organisation: Community Based
Rehabilitation (CBR) Ministry of Health
and Medical Services

Country: Solomon Islands

Assignment Two: Inclusive Education
Officer

Host Organisation: Special Needs
Education Society in English (SENESE)

Australian Partner Organisation: Royal
Institute for Deaf and Blind Children (RIDBC)

Country: Samoa

“It was unforgettable for me as Eddie and I broadened our students’ horizons and introduced many new concepts which they always learnt at an amazing speed.”

Volunteer Ben Clare is from Sydney and has undertaken two volunteer assignments. His first as a Training Officer for Blind and Visually Impaired Services, was with Host Organisation Community Based Rehabilitation Unit, part of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in the Solomon Islands. The aim of his assignment was to train local staff to increase their confidence and also to improve awareness in the local community of the needs of people who are blind or vision impaired.

Ben, who is himself blind, described his assignment thus: “I assisted my counterpart in setting up an education facility within our program offering Braille training to clients from around Honiara and nearby locations. My counterpart, Eddie, needed skills on formally structuring the lessons and producing reports for relevant government authorities and potential funding sources. It was unforgettable for me as Eddie and I broadened our students’ horizons and introduced many new concepts which they always learnt at an amazing speed. Within several weeks, our students were writing full sentences, could spell common words unassisted and were working out basic sums. It soon became clear

to me these people weren’t just struggling with a lack of education but were unable to participate in their local community. We encouraged our students to come up with ideas themselves. At least two people I know are now selling fruit, vegetables and betel nut in the local market and are supporting themselves financially.”

Ben is currently on a second assignment as an Inclusive Education Officer with Special Needs Education Society in English (SENESE). SENESE offers support services to children with intellectual, hearing and vision disabilities who attend regular schools throughout the country. Their primary goal is to ensure all school students with disabilities are fully included in the Samoan education system and are adequately provided for in terms of logistical and moral support. Ben is having a positive impact in Samoa as his previous experience in the Solomon Islands, and the Host Organisation and wider community are benefitting as a result.

ABOVE LEFT AND RIGHT: Ben Clare enjoying his work with blind and vision impaired school students and counterparts as part of his assignment as an Inclusive Education Officer with Special Needs Education Society in English (SENESE). Photo: Austraining International