



# Australian Volunteers Program

Supporting people-to-people links across the region



*Vanuatu Agricultural Extension Officer Jenn Learmonth (centre) with Department of Agriculture colleagues, Hegggar Molisa (L) and Ginney Napuaty (R).  
Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono*

The Australian Volunteers Program matches a broad range of skilled Australians with partner organisations in the Indo-Pacific region, to support them to achieve their own development goals.

Australian volunteers contribute unique experiences, networks and ideas to their volunteer assignments and the communities in which they live and work.

The Australian Government has supported thousands of Australians to volunteer overseas as part of Australia's aid program for 60 years.

The Australian Volunteers Program is the next chapter in this long and rich history, and seeks to connect Australians to people and experiences in the Indo-Pacific region, fostering a safer, more secure and inclusive global community.

The Australian Government's Foreign Policy White Paper recognises the importance of Australian volunteers in creating links between communities and people in the region, and contributing to sustainable development outcomes.

By supporting sustainable development, the Australian Volunteers Program contributes to continued economic growth and improved stability and security.

The Australian Volunteers Program aims to:

- » Support partners to achieve their own development goals
- » Encourage professional and personal growth in Australian volunteers
- » Increase the appreciation of the value of volunteering in Australia and overseas.



**Solomon Islands** Occupational Therapist Joanna Cairney (R) working with patient Edwin Same (L), assisted by rehabilitation officer Patteson Kelimana (Centre) at the National Referral Hospital. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono



**Timor-Leste** Vocational Education Mentor Jocelyn Condon (centre) with East Timor Development Agency trainees during their practical assessment. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

## Volunteer opportunities

We are proud that our program is all about people – the volunteers, the partners and the communities in which they live and work. We recruit a diverse range of Australian volunteers to support partner organisations in our region to achieve their own development goals, because the most effective development is locally-led and locally-driven.

Volunteer assignments are generally 12 months in duration, but can range between one and 24 months. Each volunteer role requires specific skills and professional experience.













Partners and children can accompany an Australian volunteer on assignment. On longer assignments, financial support is also available for dependents who are Australian citizens or permanent residents.

From the time of selection as a volunteer, through to their return, Australian volunteers are well supported. Our managing contractor, AVI, brings 60 years' experience in international volunteer management to the program.

[Find out more about the assignments and how to apply at www.australianvolunteers.com](http://www.australianvolunteers.com)

## Skills and experience

A broad range of skills are needed to contribute to sustainable development in the region. Volunteers have the opportunity to work in a range of sectors, including:

-  Health
-  Education and training
-  Community and social development
-  Communications and media
-  Business, marketing and tourism
-  Disaster and emergency management
-  Information technology
-  Agriculture, forestry and fisheries
-  Law and justice
-  Gender equality and child protection
-  Public policy, economics and financial management
-  Engineering
-  Skilled trades

## Australian volunteers are supported with:

- » Return airfares and visas
- » Living and accommodation allowances
- » Comprehensive insurance, medical assessments and vaccinations
- » Pre-departure briefings, in-country orientation and language training
- » Ongoing in-country support from an experienced in-country management team
- » Access to 24-hour emergency support
- » Debriefing on return to Australia
- » Resettlement allowance on return to Australia (for assignments over 6 months duration)



**Indonesia** Communications Development Officer Luke Meney (R) with Yakkum Rehabilitation Centre colleagues, Birgitta Anggre Hapsari (Centre) and Novena Asih Nur Sholihah (L). Yakkum provides rehabilitation and integrated services to people living with disabilities. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

### Partner organisations

The Australian Volunteers Program partners with organisations in 26 countries across the Indo-Pacific region.

Partner organisations include non-government organisations and other civil society organisations, government agencies, educational institutions, private sector and social enterprises and humanitarian organisations.

### Australian organisations

Australian organisations can also contribute to sustainable development in our region by becoming a partner of the Australian Volunteers Program.

Australian partner organisations can maintain and develop relationships with organisations in our region, and promote the program with their networks in Australia.

**>1000** 

Australian volunteers supported each year

**26** 

countries participating

**97%**

of volunteers are in the Indo-Pacific region

**>700**

partner organisations

### Where we operate

|                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bhutan                         | Papua New Guinea                 |
| Cambodia                       | Philippines                      |
| Eswatini                       | Republic of The Marshall Islands |
| Federated States of Micronesia | Samoa                            |
| Fiji                           | Solomon Islands                  |
| Indonesia                      | South Africa                     |
| Kiribati                       | Sri Lanka                        |
| Laos                           | Tanzania                         |
| Lesotho                        | Timor-Leste                      |
| Mongolia                       | Tonga                            |
| Myanmar                        | Tuvalu                           |
| Nepal                          | Vanuatu                          |
| Palau                          | Vietnam                          |

### Contributing to the SDGs

The Australian Government is committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its 17 Goals, as a universal, global approach to reduce poverty, promote sustainable development and ensure the peace and prosperity of people across the world.

Australian volunteers and our partner organisations in Australia and across the Indo-Pacific region are working together to contribute to achieving the SDGs.



[www.australianvolunteers.com](http://www.australianvolunteers.com)  
[info@australianvolunteers.com](mailto:info@australianvolunteers.com)  
[#AusVols](https://twitter.com/AusVols)  
[@ausvols](https://www.instagram.com/ausvols)

Department of Foreign Affairs  
and Trade  
[www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)



The Australian Volunteers Program  
is an Australian Government initiative.

The Australian Volunteers Program  
is guided by principles that ensure we:



Value volunteering



Support locally-led capacity  
development



Build strong relationships  
and partnerships



Evolve best practice and embrace  
innovation



Enhance diversity and inclusion



Ensure accountability  
and value learning

