



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Australian  
Volunteers**  
FOR INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

## Partnering for sustainable development



**Solomon Islands** Senior Registrar Obstetrics and Gynaecology volunteer Rangí De Silva (L) and Head of Gynaecology and Obstetrics Dr Leanne Panisi (R) at the National Referral Hospital

With international skilled volunteering, relationships are forged and people's lives are changed as valuable knowledge and skills are exchanged. The opportunities are boundless for Australian volunteers to strengthen the important work you do in your local communities.

The Australian Volunteers Program is an Australian Government initiative that works across the Indo-Pacific region, supporting a broad range of partner organisations to achieve their development goals.

We match partner organisations with skilled, well-prepared Australians who build capacity at a local level through a diverse range of professional and technical volunteer assignments.



**Tanzania** Knowledge Management and Project Monitoring Mentor volunteer Cate Melzner (2nd from left) with her HakiMadini colleagues Joyce Ndakaru, Sarah Kessy and Esther Somi (L-R)



**Cambodia** Channeng Toeb (L) and IT Officer volunteer William McLean (R) upgrading IT resources at the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center

## Why partner with the Australian Volunteers Program?

Organisations that partner with the Australian Volunteers Program are provided with skilled, well-prepared Australian volunteers who are committed to developing the capacity of your organisation.

The program works collaboratively with partner organisations to develop three-year partnership plans, which map how volunteer contributions will support local capacity development of the partner and ensure assignments will have a long-lasting impact.

The program also offers opportunities such as partnerships with Australian organisations, networking with other partners and volunteers, and other support opportunities.

## How are partner organisations selected?









In selecting a partner organisation a range of factors are considered, including:

- » How the partner's objectives align with the partner country's development priorities, the Australian Government's Aid Investment Plan, the Australian Volunteers Program Global Program Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals
- » The existence of a child protection policy that aligns with Australian Volunteers Program standards
- » Capacity of the partner organisation to host a volunteer in a suitable workplace and provide support and management

## Who can partner with the Australian Volunteers Program?

The Australian Volunteers Program partners with local, provincial, national and international government agencies, local and international non-government organisations, civil society and community-based organisations, academic, research and educational institutions, private sector organisations and industry bodies.

Our partner organisations come from a diverse 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**



**Kiribati** Betio Town Council Policy Adviser volunteer, Patrick Chan (2nd from left) and colleagues Tamuera Tamoro, Taakenteatu Kamkeiti and Ioanne Teruruai (L-R)

### How does my organisation take the next step?

Our in-country teams will work with you to assess how your organisation meets the program objectives. To work out if a partnership with the Australian Volunteers Program is a good step for your organisation, think about the following:

- » How would one or more skilled Australian volunteers help support the long-term strategic objectives of your organisation?
- » How can your organisation contribute to hosting a volunteer, or support the Australian Volunteers Program more broadly?
- » Does your organisation have any existing relationships with Australian organisations or is your organisation interested in collaborating with Australian organisations in the future?
- » How can your organisation encourage the professional and personal growth of the Australian volunteers while on assignment?

### How does my organisation prepare to host a volunteer?

If your organisation is eligible, there are a number of steps required to get you ready to welcome your first Australian volunteer, including:

- ✓ Completing due diligence and risk assessments
- ✓ Developing a suitable volunteer assignment in consultation with our in-country team
- ✓ Committing to inducting and orientating the volunteer to the workplace and local area
- ✓ Providing suitable equipment to complete the assignment
- ✓ Providing a dedicated and suitable workspace for the volunteer
- ✓ Helping to find accommodation for the volunteer
- ✓ Covering costs associated with work-related travel expenses incurred by the volunteer
- ✓ Developing a Child Protection Policy that is aligned to the program standards (we can provide guidance and assistance to develop this policy)
- ✓ Working with our in-country team to recruit the right volunteer

It can take a number of months to get your organisation ready for an Australian volunteer, and we will work with you to provide the support and guidance you need.





**Indonesia** Perkumpulan Keluarga Berencana Indonesia Yogyakarta branch volunteers Sri Wahyuni Putri, Shelly Stasya and Chintya Anggreina with Monitoring and Evaluation Officer volunteer Jamee Newland (L-R)

### Our volunteers

- » Each volunteer role has specific skills and professional experience that match local needs
- » Volunteer assignments range from 1-24 months
- » Volunteers are recruited in consultation with our local partners
- » The program funds volunteers for the duration of their assignment – covering flights, visa support, modest living/accommodation allowances, medical insurance, and 24/7 emergency response
- » Volunteers are supported by our in-country teams, with coverage across 26 countries
- » The program encourages a broad range of Australians to volunteer, including people living with disabilities, Indigenous Australians, people from remote, rural and regional locations, and Australians from different professions, cultural backgrounds and identities

### Partnership Plans

Partnership Plans are developed collaboratively by partner organisations and in-country program staff. The plan maps the volunteer activities that will support the partner organisation's capacity development over a three-year period.

Partnership Plans aim to:

- » Develop a shared understanding of the partner organisation's programs, organisational and technical capacity, and objectives
- » Identify what type of Australian volunteer assistance will be of most use, and when it will be most needed
- » Ensure partner organisations take ownership of volunteer assignments
- » Deepen the partnership between program staff and partner organisations over time
- » Enable long-term promotion and volunteer recruitment in Australia

For further information about becoming a partner organisation and requesting a volunteer, contact the Australian Volunteers Program office for your country.

[australianvolunteers.com/contact-us/](https://australianvolunteers.com/contact-us/)

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**Australian  
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The Australian Volunteers Program is an Australian Government initiative.