



## Development, Welfare & Evangelistic Placements

**Palms Australia** engages Australians in a variety of cross-cultural situations including *development*, *welfare* and *evangelistic* placements. These activities can be clearly distinguished and have different sources of funding. The engagement of Program Participants in *development* placements is the core activity and main priority of the Palms Australia program and constitutes the majority of all placements.

The work of Palms Australia derives from our commitment to the principles of Catholic social teaching and gospel values. Palms will work with communities irrespective of gender, race, ethnicity, ability or religion.

### **DEVELOPMENT:**

**Palms Australia** *development* placements involve participants in:

An economic, social, cultural, spiritual and ecological process which encourages the empowerment and wellbeing of individuals, communities and organisations to reduce poverty, enjoy and nurture basic human rights and independence, and work towards a future where the interdependence of economic and ecological sustainability is achieved. Placements concentrate on the growth in the capacity of individuals & communities and in the development of self-reliance, sufficiency and sustainability. The opportunity and capacity for skill & knowledge transfer is an integral component in the placement of Palms Australia Program Participants within its development contexts.

### **WELFARE:**

**Palms Australia** *welfare* placements involve participants in:

Activities which serve the short term needs of the poor such as the provision of resources for example clothing, medical treatment, food or rehabilitation. They look to provide care and relief while not necessarily addressing the root causes of poverty and injustice. Palms Australia supports a small number of participants in welfare placements where the activities are mutually beneficial to partners and participants. These benefits may include the development of cross-cultural understanding and awareness and responding to emergency post-conflict situations.

### **EVANGELISTIC\*:**

**Palms Australia** *evangelistic* placements involve:

Activities whereby knowledge of faith systems and beliefs is formally shared and disseminated. These activities contribute to the creation and servicing of the formal spiritual needs of Christian communities. Palms Australia engages a small number of participants in evangelistic placements specifically as lecturers and teachers or pastoral workers. These placements are initiated at the request of overseas partners and operate independently of development activities carried out by Palms Australia.

Placing participants within Catholic institutions does not necessarily indicate evangelistic activities. Traditionally, Palms Australia has placed participants within Catholic dioceses in the provision of services for education, health or administration. These positions work towards the capacity building of individuals and institutional strengthening of service providers. In such cases Palms Australia regards these placements as fulfilling the criteria for development placements. Benefits from these placements are open to all members of the local community, irrespective of religious affiliation and do not necessarily contribute to the formal spiritual needs of the Christian community.

\* Palms Australia understands that evangelism and evangelisation have a much broader understanding in Catholic teachings. However, the term "evangelistic" has been used as this is the term that AusAID (now DFAT) has employed and one which AusAID asked Palms to define for the purposes of funding.