

Annual Report 2022/23



Palms Australia

Opening our hands to Solidarity, Justice & Dignity for all

Cover photo:
Traditional tais weaving in Los Palos, Timor Leste

Inside cover photo:
Local herbs and consistent application of eye ointment assisted Malcom Gaydon and the goat owner, Maria, to save the Goat from pink eye. Healthy kids were a bonus.
Atabae, Timor Leste

ABN 33 001 882 337

Palms Australia acknowledges the Gadigal and Wangal People of the Eora Nation, as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Palms office is located

Palms Australia is a public company (ACN 001 882 337) limited by guarantee whose legal structure is voluntary, not-for-profit, and non-government. We are committed to living up to our values in all that we do. We value honest feedback or any critique you may have about the way our team have implemented our program.

Palms Executive Director or Chair of the Board
may be contacted in confidence at www.palms.org.au/feedback



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About Us

Since 1961 Palms Australia has been contributing to justice in global development by engaging with grass roots organisations seeking sustainable solutions to poverty in their communities. We recruit qualified and experienced Australians able to assist a requesting organisation achieve the developments they identify to foster the strengths of their people. We thoroughly prepare and support those we recruit for mutual development with their counterparts.

OUR VISION

People reaching beyond every barrier of culture, religion, nationality, gender, class and individualism, to cooperate in achieving a just, sustainable, interdependent and peaceful world free of poverty

OUR MISSION

Facilitate, and be open to mutual formation and inspiration, with those who share their skills abroad to:

- Advance the awareness, enthusiasm and involvement of Australian and international communities in shared action to achieve just, sustainable and peaceful development.
- Participate in an exchange of knowledge and skills to meet the requests of communities seeking to reduce poverty by developing the capacities of their people and organisations.

OUR VALUES

Solidarity. Love. Humility. Justice.

Solidarity is the key energising value of Palms Australia. Solidarity is a principle arising out of our reflection that all living creatures are interdependent. Relationship invites responsibility and, therefore, solidarity. In valuing solidarity we value love that is lived out in respect for the dignity of all life. We value humility lived out in personal integrity and responsibility. We value justice lived out in a willingness to challenge structures that prevent collective participation in creative solutions.

OUR GOALS



Sustainable Development

An exchange of knowledge and skills to create new opportunities, ever increasing capacity and lasting change for all.



Solidarity

Strong and growing relationships between individuals, organisations, communities and cultures that engage in connected intentional efforts to create just opportunities for all.



Poverty Reduction

Productive partnerships that address inequalities and overcome disadvantage to offer creative solutions that build pathways to equal participation in social and economic life.



Connection

Deeper awareness, enthusiasm and involvement of Australian and international communities in shared action to achieve Palms vision for our collective future.



Liz Stone

FROM THE CHAIR

AFFIRMATION AND HOPE

As we look back on our year and toward the next for Palms Australia, we are preparing for a major change of leadership when Roger O'Halloran retires. He has been Executive Director since January 2000. In this exceptional stretch of time Palms Australia has been shaped into a mission agency manifesting the important Catholic social values of solidarity and partnership with local communities (subsidiarity) in ways that promote integral development and human flourishing in communities of the Indo-Pacific and Africa as well as Australia.

This year Palms Australia has also formalised the Train-the-Trainer model of the 'Neighbours without Borders' program, an intercultural program offering a healthy encounter of cultures in Australian communities. The training aims to build cultures of collaboration, inclusivity, respect, and deep love based on the strengths that diverse members of Australia's communities can bring to each other.

The coming end of service to Palms Australia by Roger and the commencement of a legacy program for strengthening multi-cultural and multi-faith Australian communities, developed by Roger and former staff member Brendan Joyce, represent the circle of life, the passing of seasons, the call from God to live in faith, hope and love.

This can be summed up in the short phrase about affirmation and hope, also referred to as a 'prayer', from the first United Nations General Secretary Dag Hammerskjold:

**'For all that has been, THANKS,
for all that is to be, YES!'**

Palms Australia has firm foundations to face the future. I would like to thank my fellow Directors – Sam Haddin, Dr Stephen Yates, Ben Thurley, Brendan Joyce, John Powell, Sr Philippa Murphy OLSH and Treasurer, Greg Browne for their committed service. I thank Robert Reynolds and Lalena Graham for their time with Palms Australia and we wish you well in your future roles. I warmly welcome the new staff to Palms Australia at this crucial time for the organisation – Jen Wiggins and Noura El Ahmad and all that you offer. To Kevin Wilson, Cassandra Falson and Emily Shaw, we acknowledge your ongoing service and thank you for helping us through this season of change and hope.

Grace and peace, Liz

Elizabeth (Liz) Stone



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Roger O'Halloran



FIRM FOUNDATIONS BUILT ON A HEALTHY NETWORK

I thank the Palms Chair, Liz Stone, for her kind words about my work in her report. Liz correctly anticipates my retirement, although given we are well into financial year 2023-24, I suspect I will be the one writing "from the Executive Director" again in next year's Annual Report. I passionately anticipate continuing to give my time for what promises to be an important year in assisting to further solidify what Liz characterizes as "the firm foundations to face the future".

The COVID journey tested us. It interrupted the flow and made us face questions about the sustainability and resilience of Palms and partner's systems, processes and procedures. We all learnt much about what stands the test of time under stress. As much as anything else **this learning will assist us to build even firmer foundations.**

In this Annual Report you will note Kevin Wilson's brief on his May field trip to Papua New Guinea; one originally scheduled for March 2020. Recently, I returned from a similar trip that engaged me in 13 meetings across Timor Leste. Partners had not seen us there since 2019. They, and indeed Palms partners across the globe, have a strong enthusiasm to get more Palms prepared mentors assisting in the next stages of building on organisational and individual strengths in their communities.

As evident in the Auditor's Financial Report this year we received **new grants** to help us retain Palms capacity to respond to partner requests. Being for three years the grants provide a **firm financial foundation** identified by some Dioceses and Religious Orders as necessary to maintain and build on the uniquely developed skills of the team in the Palms' office.

With the doubling of enquiries in FY 2022-23 providing some evidence that Australians are ready again to travel they are most timely and appreciated.

It reminds me that the main ingredient of Palms firm foundations is the same ingredient that is integral to Palms development philosophy. The success of our work relies not so much on one individual or even one organisation. As the rest of Palms Annual Report highlights, Palms is a healthy network that embraces the contributions of the various strengths and assets of individuals and organisations who share a common vision and values.

What excites and enthuses me, is that while I will vacate one position in this network, I can still offer my strengths and enjoy the diversity of learning that others joining the network will offer. I am particularly excited to be part of finding another to take my place who also loves engaging new and diverse voices and actors. I trust you remain equally excited to enrich our networks support of the collaboration between partner communities and program participants, which is so essential to continuing [the mission that enables all to live Palms Vision.](#)

Go gently,
Roger O'Halloran

**To support the preparation of new
participants at Palms January 2024
Orientation Course
[PLEASE DONATE HERE](#)**

Our Posture Builds a Network

Opening our palms to the world is as much about being ready to receive the wisdom from the life experience of others, as it is about what we have to offer.

*Feel it...turn your palms face up... widen your arms a little.
As we open our hands and widen our arms,
We also open our hearts.
We are ready to receive.*

*It is the opposite of folded arms, a pointed finger, or a closed fist.
It requires us to become vulnerable; prepared to remove ignorance of what we might not understand about fellow human beings.
And, as a consequence, lessens our fear and prejudice.*



Catie & Catherine at Fatu O Aiga Montessori School during our April Samoa & American Samoa Encounter

PROGRAM AND PLACEMENTS

Jen Wiggins
Noura El Ahmad

OVERVIEW

Palms Australia places skilled Australians, from a vast array of disciplines and trades, in long-term assignments in remote communities to promote mutual development and capacity strengthening of both our overseas partners and the professionals we send.

Over the last 12 months the Palms Australia Global Program continued to grow as the world opened up in the wake of the global pandemic. While the growth in the program has not been as rapid as expected, the small cohort of participants abroad, in close collaboration with their partner organisations and surrounding local communities, continued to work towards their identified development objectives.

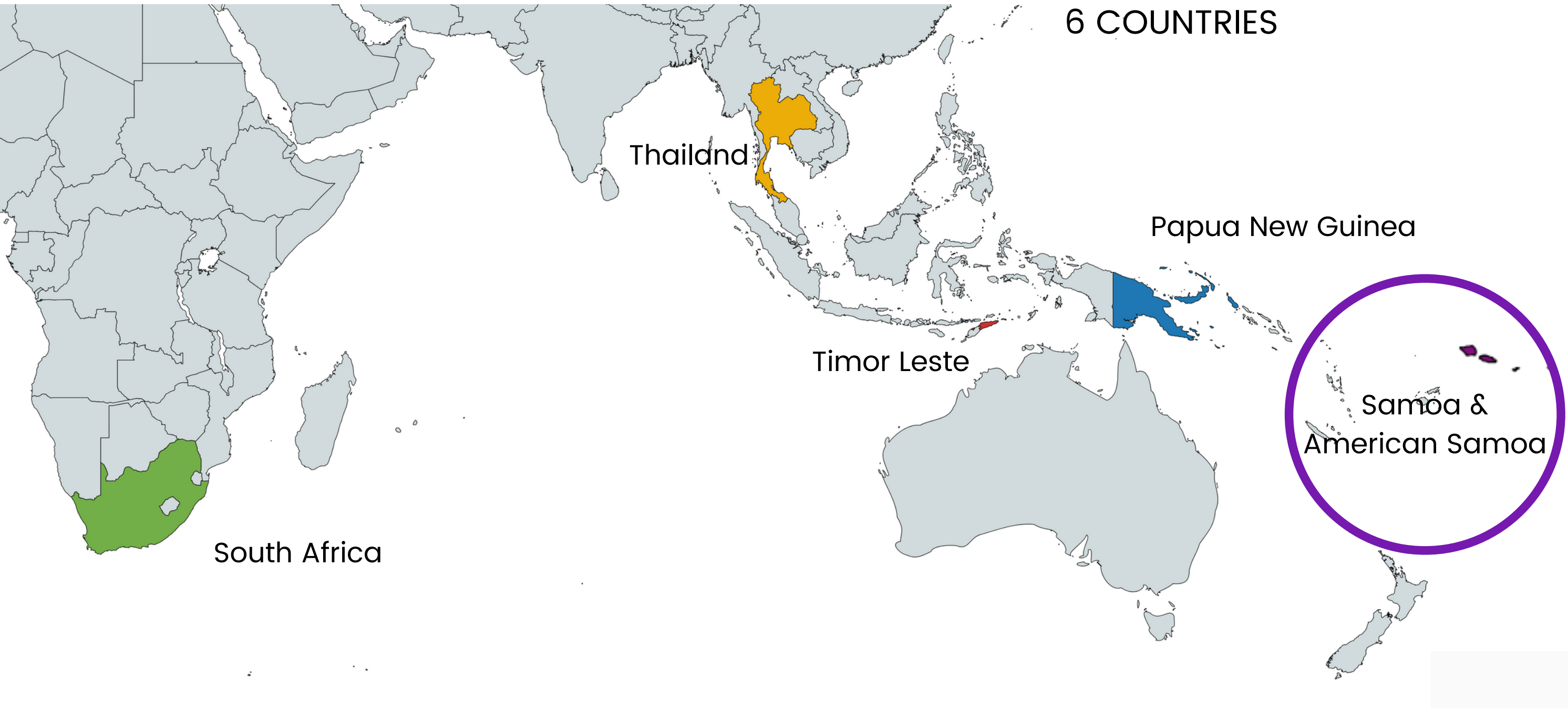
During the year, Palms Australia worked in partnership with eight partner organisations and communities to support eleven placements in six countries. The majority of placements were hosted in Timor-Leste (5), with smaller numbers in American Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, South Africa and Thailand.



Rosita wearing traditional dress for the Mothers Day service at church Savai'i, Samoa . Photo by program participant John Bradley.

WHO, WHERE, HOW MANY IN 2022/2023

Placements & Outputs



Host Partners: 8 | Days of service: 2431 | Remote mentoring days : 166

Program Participant Profile

Number: 5 started | 6 continued

Gender: 73% female | 27% male

Age: Range 25–78 yrs
Average 58

From: QLD – 5; VIC – 1;
SA – 1; WA – 2;
NSW – 1; SAMOA – 1

Beneficiaries

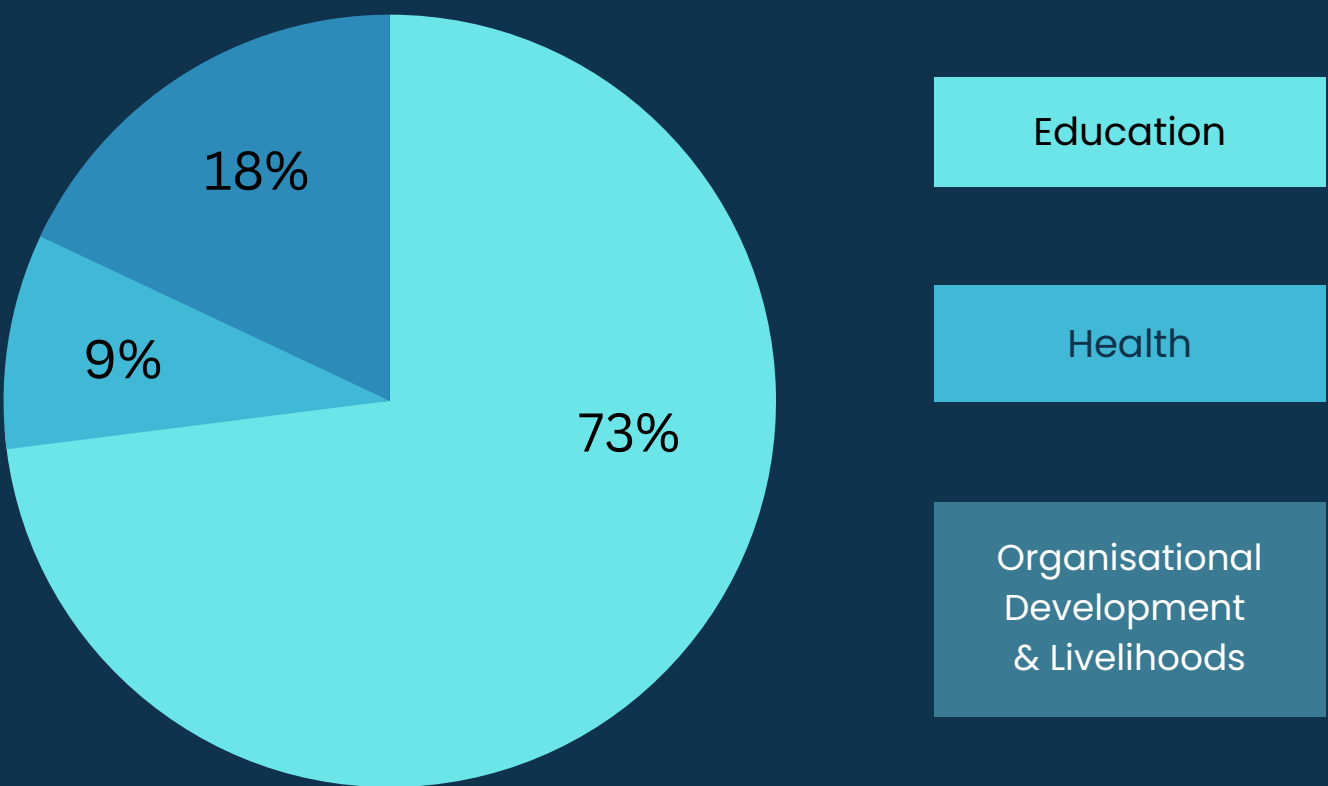
	Females	Males	Children
Direct (2699)* :	568	424	1707
Indirect (1321)**:	--	--	1321

* Those benefitting directly engage in training and mentoring with the Palms program participant.
They may be an individual counterpart, or work team, or a class of students.

** Those benefitting less directly include the people served by an organisation as a result of its capacity
being developed in collaboration with the Palms participant.

Sectors:

Our development programs have focused on three sectors: Education, Health and Organisational Development and Livelihoods.



NEW WAYS FORWARD

With the number of enquiries to Palms doubling in FY 2022–23 it seems Australians are willing to travel again, so we have geared up, not only to intensify Palms' outreach, but also to amplify our impact within the Australian community. Two extraordinarily experienced new staff are combining with our skilful existing staff to shape new ways forward. The revitalised team is providing broader expertise for animating and activating Australians to support both [requests from partner communities globally](#), as well as assisting Australian communities implement Palms [Neighbours Without Borders](#) program.

The two new staff joined the team at the beginning of the current financial year (2023–24). In their own words, they explain below how they are starting their Palms journey:



Jen Wiggins

I have enjoyed meeting (in person and virtually) recent returnees as well as participants currently in the field. In order to familiarise myself with the program, I have been in touch with current partner organisation representatives as well as those from organisations that are in the process of becoming Palms Australia partners. I have spent time happily diving into monitoring and evaluation records to mine information used in this report and educate myself on the work that the partner organisations and participants have been doing.

I look forward to working with Palms staff, partners and participants to build the global program over the coming year.

Noura El Ahmad

Currently my focus has been on recruiting Australians for global mission and providing transitional support from the moment of initial inquiry to acceptance of positions in overseas placements. In FY 2023–24 the focus of Palms Community Relations will be on both meeting the requests of global communities and building neighbourhoods without borders (NWB) in Australia.

I am looking forward to coordinating the 106th Orientation Course scheduled for January 6th – 14th 2024. It will prepare those working in sustainable poverty reduction abroad, as well as those rolling out Palms NWB program in Australia. I particularly look forward to applying my experience to assist the cultural competence and promote the cultural humility essential to both programs.

In the year ahead each program will achieve Palms unwavering commitment to Pope Francis' vision in *Fratelli Tutti*, of a strong emphasis on unity and collective growth. We will seek schools, community organisations and institutions, both religious and non-religious into partnerships that empower local communities to draw on the strengths of their diversity.

This Spring you can assist to underpin this new growth; assist Palms to amplify our impact; help us to meet the long standing and new requests of our partner communities for sustainable poverty reduction.



PLEASE
CONTRIBUTE
TO OUR SPRING
APPEAL HERE

SNIPPETS from our Global Program Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

Were your expectations of being a Palms Global Participant fulfilled or met?

Yes, I believe they were, the values and ethos of Palms that were taught helped pave the way for interactions and strong relationships with our local community.

Yes, the Volunteer role was as I expected. – Live in a poor community, alongside the local people and engage with them in their community. – Mentor people as much as possible, avoid doing the job for them.

Do you feel that your period as a Palms Global Participant, and the work you accomplished, contributed to the idea of empowering local people in another country?

Yes, to the extent that I contributed to the education and future aspirations of students, and shared skills and experience with the local teachers while working in solidarity with them.

Yes, I think I have given people in my community the information to help themselves if they wish to regardless of the level of individual poverty

Yes, I am pleased with the work I contributed in the area of English teaching and developing English teaching skills for some staff.

What was the most positive aspect of your time away?

Developing strong friendships with our Palms support people. It was observed that some students were awakening to the need to take responsibility for their own learning and had begun to flourish by taking more interest in and responsibility for their studies. Another positive aspect was the evolving working relationship with local teaching colleagues.

Living within our means and living a simple lifestyle. Being away from the first world rat-race. Learning the culture and lifestyle of the Timorese people. Growing in appreciation for the tenacity and resilience of the Timorese people.

Comments from Partner Organisations

The volunteer has helped to advance reading skills among students and promote professionalism with the staff.

Besides being a mentor to the teachers, and helping with teaching students in a smaller setting, the volunteer has been a friendly face and voice on campus to all.

The sharing of knowledge, experience, and resources have shown efforts in achieving productive outcomes for the school and students.

AMERICAN SAMOA

TEACHER MENTOR IN PAGO PAGO

Veronica Lawson's assignment involved:

- Providing mentoring and professional support for local educators
- Modelling best practice in classroom teaching

at Marist-St Francis Elementary School, St Theresa's Elementary Schools and Fatu O Aiga Montessori School. All schools under the auspices of the Diocese of American Samoa, Pago Pago.

Veronica's Observations:

At the beginning of the 2022/2023 school year, my initial intention involved observations in all classrooms with specific emphasis on classroom organisation and teacher pedagogy. As a result, after discussions with respective school principals, I identified specific teachers who would benefit from guidance with classroom behaviour and teaching practices which have a positive impact on student learning.

I have provided professional development in the area of Visible Learning. Research has demonstrated which teaching practices have a positive effect on student learning:

- Students being aware of the purpose of a lesson.
- Students knowing what success looks like.
- Teachers using data to inform lesson direction.
- Students receiving feedback.
- Student/Teacher relationship.



St Theresa's Elementary School Year 8 students with class teacher Niusa on the far left and Veronica on the far right. Photo taken during an Encounter visit in April 2023.

SAMOA

Veronica's Observations continued:

As well, I presented a session on Essential Micro-skills (behaviour management skills).

Purpose of Essential Micro-skills:

- More consistent teacher response
- Increased student engagement
- Increased teacher student relationship
- Decrease in minor classroom behaviours
- Universal intervention for 90% of students



As Veronica's role evolved, following discussion with principals, students with specific learning difficulties were identified. Veronica then provided individual support to students in the areas of reading, writing and basic mathematics.

Fatu O Aiga Montessori School

SAMOA: DUAL-MODE MENTORING

In FY 2023-24 we will continue to focus on a pilot project for dual-mode assignments. This program explores the possibility of having applicants in country for the first six months before returning to Australia and continuing to provide mentoring support for counterpart[s]/students.

Don Bosco College and Vocational Technical Centre in Salelologa, Samoa, and Palms participant John Bradley have agreed to work with us on this pilot.

Palms maintains a preference for having our participants in placement for 1-3 years, but dual-mode assignments provide the potential to entice new applicants not able to commit to being out of Australia for longer than six months. As is expected of those in-situ they would develop a work plan with local counterparts towards the end of the first six months that highlights how objectives and outcomes can be achieved online.

I fully support the idea of a remote online by Mr. John Bradley and our students. I'm grateful for John that he's still willing to help our students. I hope this online will work out well for the good of our students.

Fr Patelo, Principal

PNG FIELD TRIP

The [Field Trip to Papua New Guinea](#) had been deferred since March 2020 and was undertaken by Kevin Wilson from 19 May to 9 June 2023. Program participants who were in placement in 2020 had finished their placements. This field trip was about scoping the new requests Palms partners now have. With PNG Bishops in Rome for *ad Limina* an opportunity was provided to meet key personnel in dioceses who work closer to the community, and hence the requested placements.

One important focus of the trip was the consideration of Dual Mode Assignments. This Palms initiative would allow a Palms program participant to live in situ for 6 months to be mentored on culture, realise existing organisational and personnel strengths, and plan strategies with counterparts, after which they might return home to continue mentoring online. Understandably partners lacking required IT resources had some misgivings, so reaffirmed their preference for welcoming program participants to share their skills while living in the community during a two-year placement.

Each partner meeting re-affirmed their great enthusiasm and hope despite their long wait for participants to assist their development programs. They clearly hold Palms in high regard and have great faith in the preparation Palms provides. Palms commitment to PNG and can only be further inspired by this enthusiasm.

Existing Partner & Contact Meetings

- Archdiocese of Mount Hagen
- Good Shepherd Seminary, Banz
- Diocese of Kundiawa
- Archdiocese of Madang
- Divine Word University, Madang
- Tulele Peisa, Bougainville
- Caritas College, Port Moresby
- Diocese of Bougainville



Banz Seminary Staff

New contacts met

- Catholic Church Health Service: a service of the PNGSI Bishops' Conference and headquartered in Port Moresby, providing healthcare throughout PNG.
- Don Bosco School, Simbu: a secondary college under the Salesians' PNGSI Province
- SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistics) Buka Training Centre, Bougainville: Originally a base for mission-translators, the centre is being handed over to local management with hopes to develop it as a community training centre and guesthouse.



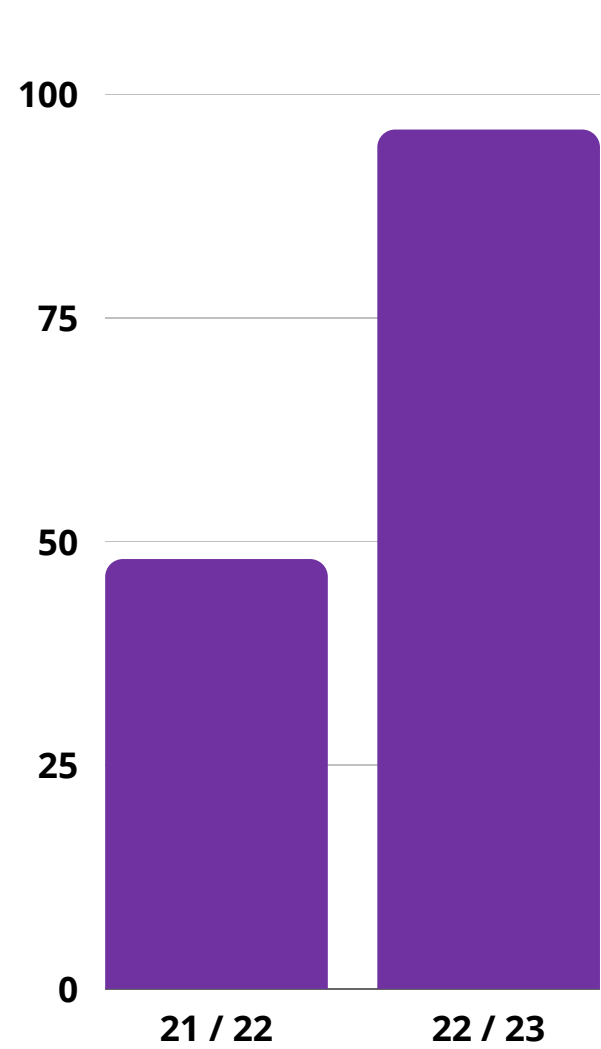
RECRUITMENT

Overview

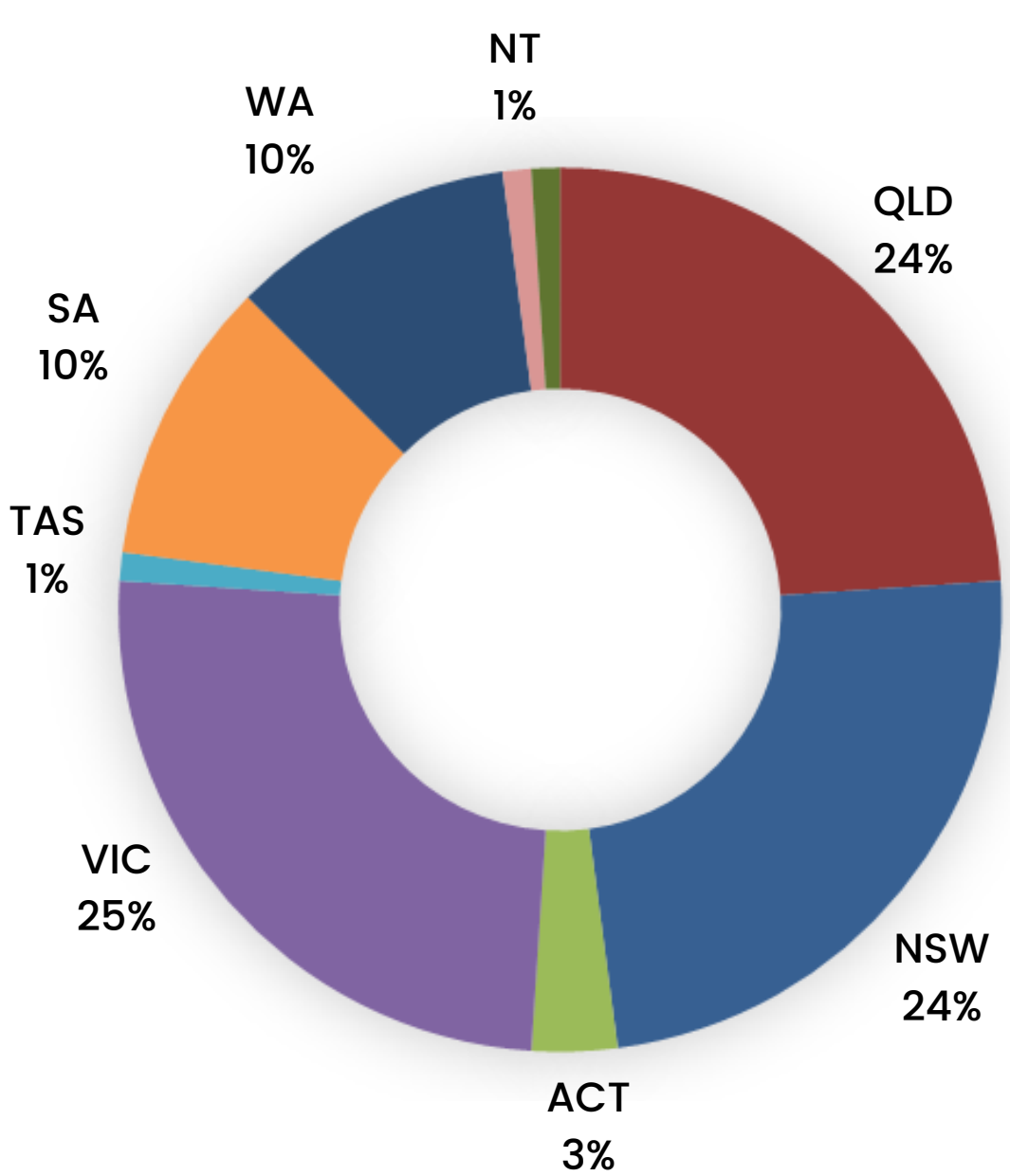
The number of enquirers has DOUBLED in the past year indicating a growing interest in global participation after the uncertainties of COVID. The statistics reflect that over half the enquirers come from church parishes and are female, with the majority from either QLD, NSW or VIC. Nearly two thirds of the enquiries come from the 50-79 age group.

Enquirer Statistics

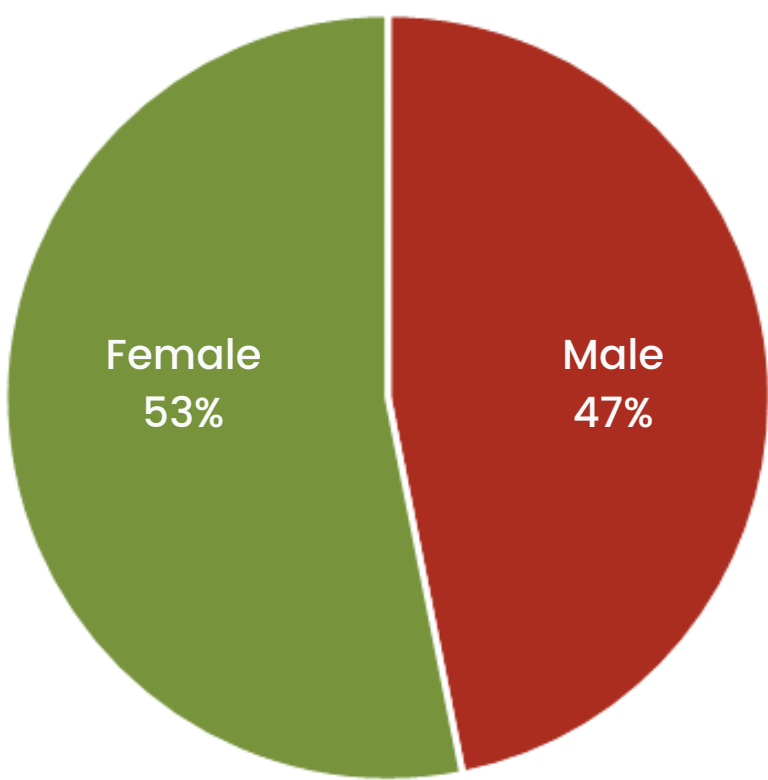
Number of Enquirers



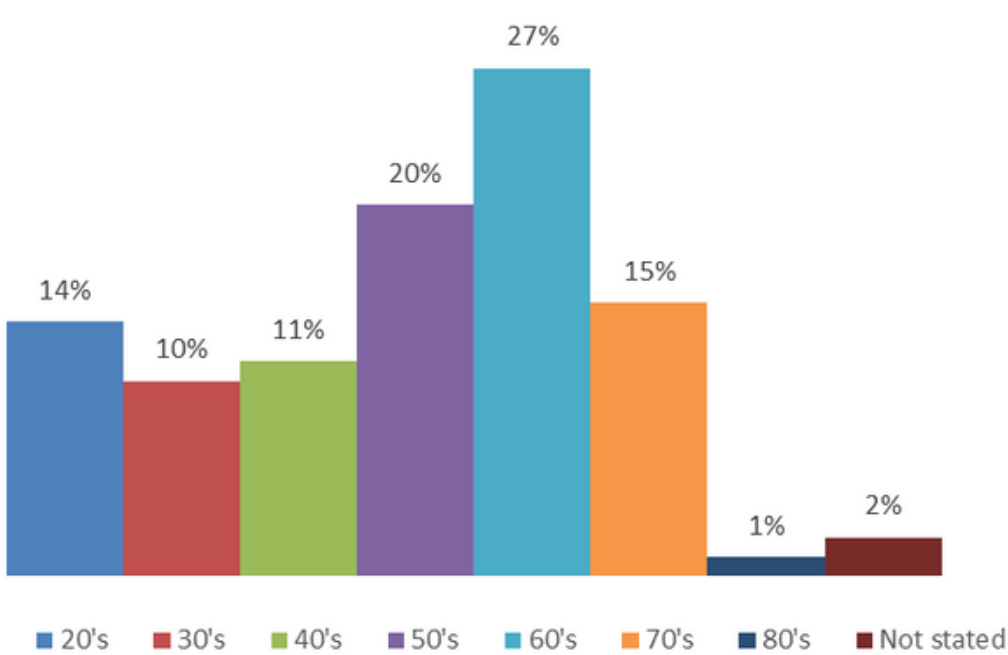
Enquirers by Location (%)



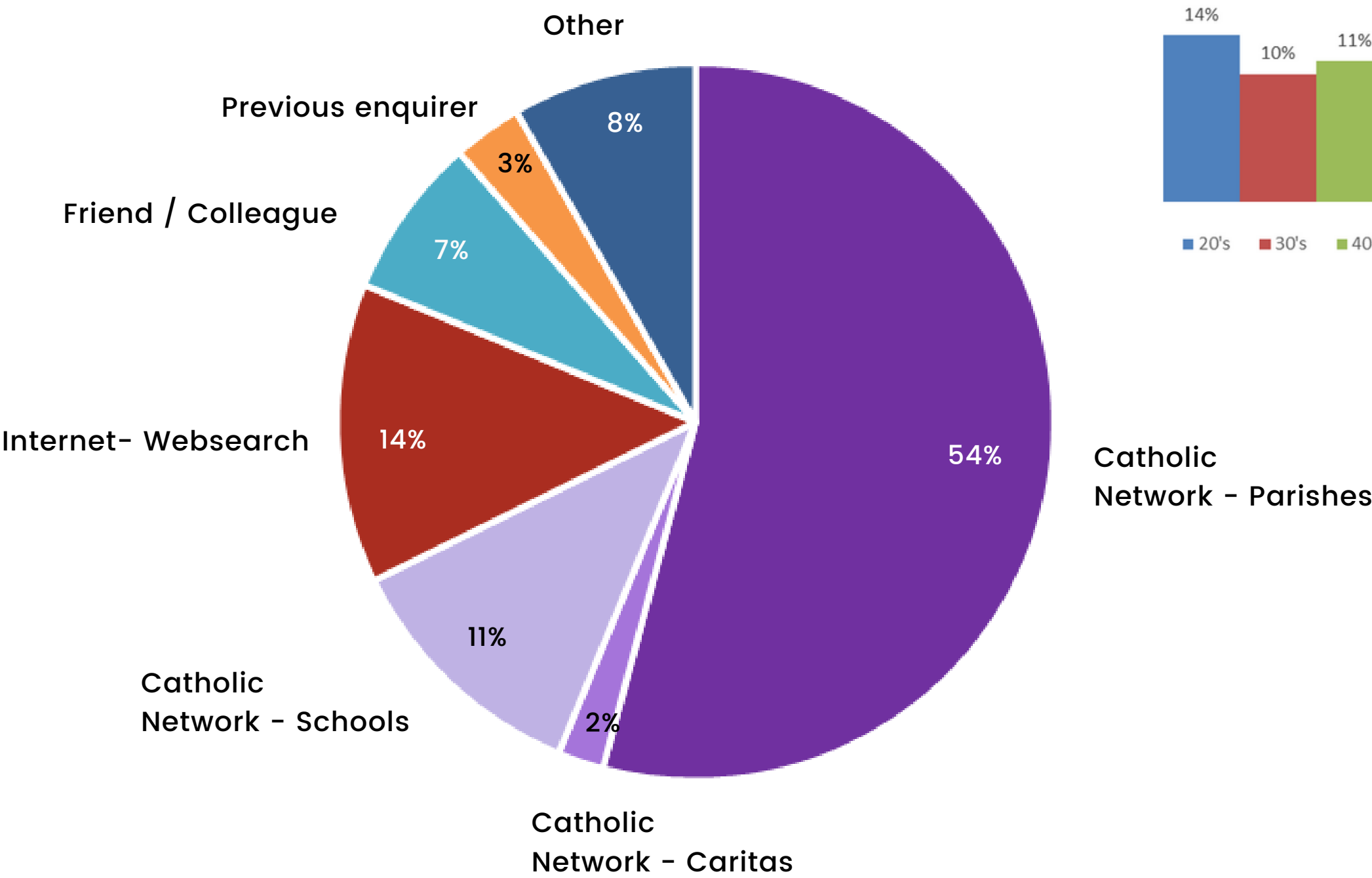
Enquirers by Gender (%)



Enquirers by Age (%)



Where Enquirers Heard About Palms



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The goal of Community Connections is to advance the awareness, enthusiasm and involvement of Australian communities in support for Palms placements. A Support Team nominated by each program participant assists us to engage their Australian communities in shared action to achieve just, sustainable and locally inspired development. We thus achieve the first aim of [Palms Mission](#).

FY 2022-23 all program participants were assisted by a support team to engage their Australian communities. This enabled personal and professional support to be given to the participants and assisted to raise funds to offset placement costs.

John Bradley, a teacher/mentor in Samoa was featured in the Dungog & Gresford church bulletin 13 times over the course of nine months. As well as hosting a sending ceremony for John and providing regular updates of his placements they promoted Palms Samoan Encounter.

For Madeline Minns receiving professional support was achieved simply through email with attached shared resources provided by one of her support team who had taught overseas previously.

Funds were generated in program participant's communities through individual donations, raffles and morning teas.

Two of our Support Team members Fr Andrew Doohan, a team member for John Bradley and Maura O'Connell, a team member for Frances Hayes, both wrote testimonies for a [Palms article](#) celebrating the Community Connections program.

Now that 2022 – 2023 participants have completed or finished their placements we are inviting those connected to them to stay engaged. We will keep them connected to [Palms news](#) and ask for ongoing assistance to recruit new program participants.

We invite all to continue supporting Palms global mission of mutually enriching development [here](#). We hope too that some will be interested to embrace diversity, build on strengths and grow their Australian community [here](#).



John Bradley's Sending Ceremony with Fr Andrew
at St Mary's Catholic Church, Dungog

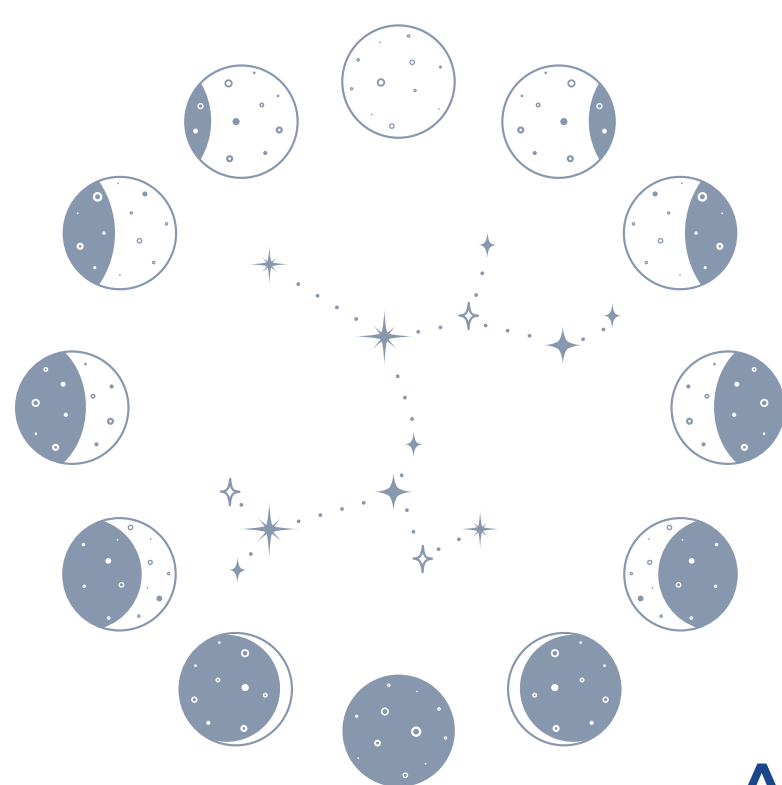
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

December 2022

In December the Solidarity Awards was combined with an auction of donated PNG artefacts at an in-person event attended by 24 members, Award recipients and staff.

Mid October 2022

Our Annual General Meeting in mid-October 2022 was well supported in person, online or via proxy with an amendment to the Palms Constitution allowing future meetings to be held entirely via online platforms if desired.



January 2023

We held our 105th Orientation Course early January with 10 people participating through the Global Mission and Neighbours Without Borders programs.

August & Sept 2022

We offered online webinars with Palms Participants in the field in Atabae, Timor Leste and Pago Pago, American Samoa to engage people in our Global Mission program with a total of 36 registrations and 19 attendees.

April 2023

Our first 2-week Encounter since November 2019 to Samoa & American Samoa, was realised. Helen Colla, an experienced returnee, led the Encounter tour and was joined by five participants and one staff member who was concurrently conducting a Field Trip. The tour met with John Bradley, Vicky Yemoh and Veronica Lawson in their placements as well as with representatives of our overseas partner and host communities.

Our last event for the financial year was our regular Easter Raffle which has seen a decline in profitability.



Aboriginal Perspectives session led by Jennifer Newman at our 105th Orientation Course in January 2023

NETWORK

Dioceses, Parishes, Orders & Schools

As in previous years, a key ongoing strategy for engaging parishes and schools is to seek formal letters from all 28 Archbishops and Bishops endorsing our global program and encouraging parishioners and teachers in catholic schools to heed the call to global mission. These letters enhance the likelihood that recruitment notices and other communications will make it to our target audiences through parish bulletins and school networks.

We requested and received financial contributions to cover the costs of participants in the January 2023 Orientation Course from the dioceses: Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

Recruitment information was distributed throughout the parish and school networks in February 2023 to align with our online recruitment webinars featuring returnees and participants already in placement.

Catholic Media

We were pleased to have several articles published in the catholic press including feature stories on program participants, special Palms events and opportunities to explore or join our programs.

Universities

Notices promoting the availability of opportunities abroad were submitted and posted on Careers Hub websites of five major universities: Australian Catholic University, Notre Dame, Macquarie University, Deakin University, and University of Canberra.

Neighbours Without Borders

In FY 2022-23 we moved beyond the development and planning stage of this initiative and began extensive engagement with possible partners and promotion of the 4-day residential workshop. We engaged with all dioceses around the country, resulting in strong interest in the program from Sydney, Maitland-Newcastle and Parramatta. We also promoted the program to religious orders with the Sisters of St Joseph and Divine Word Missionaries expressing interest in participating.

Following the January 2023 residential workshop, we have six graduates of the Neighbours Without Borders program developing and implementing action plans in the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. We are periodically following up with the graduates to support their efforts and explore possibilities to offer the program in other modes and locations.

We have applied to the National Council of Churches in Australia Glenburnie Program for funding. If we are successful, we will have the relevant participants training alongside global mission participants at the January 2024 Orientation Course.

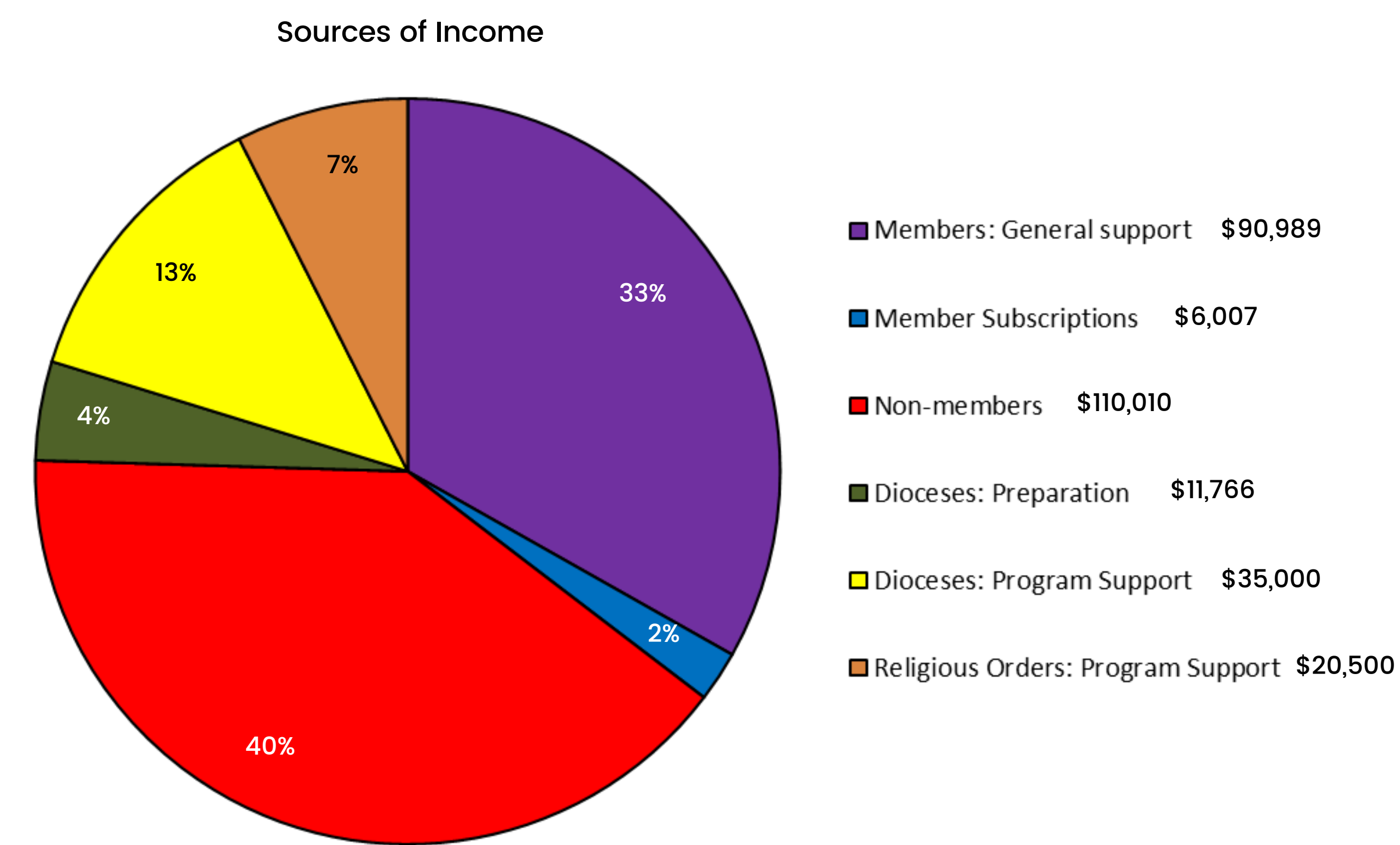


PLEASE
CONTRIBUTE TO
OUR SPRING
APPEAL
HERE

SOURCES OF INCOME

Government assistance provided in response to Covid-19 ceased in December 2021 so is not part of Palms’ income for FY2022/23. Additional funding streams this year were new grants from both dioceses and religious orders supporting the Mission and Development program.

As previously, the bulk of financial support this financial year came from the collective generosity of individual donors (both members and non-members). These gifts were provided through a combination of one-off and regular (pledged) donations, the Spring, Christmas and EOFY appeals, the Easter raffle and the Solidarity, Joy & Gratitude event, which included raffles and an auction. The injection of new, creative ideas brought by new Palms staff will assist more innovative fundraising activity in FY2023/24 to leverage the continued commitment of supporters.



Value of Program Participants

During 2022–23, Participants in Palms’ Overseas Development Program provided mentoring and support services to host communities equivalent to \$909,446 value in terms of Australian salaries. This value of services rendered is not recorded in Palms Australia financial statements for the financial year, but recorded by the Auditor as derived from current Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade figures.

Position	Partner Community	Value (AUD)
Health Professional	Holy Family Care Centre, South Africa	185,855
Lecturer	Good Shepherd Seminary, Papua New Guinea	92,282
Project Management	In-country Co-ordinator, Timor Leste	87,426
Agricultural Advisor	Atabae Community (FPA), Timor Leste	79,099
Teacher	Atabae Community (FPA), Timor Leste	79,099
Teacher	St Joseph's School, Mae Ramat, Thailand	79,099
Teacher	Don Bosco College & Vocational Technical Centre, Samoa	22,670
Teacher	Diocese of Maliana, Timor Leste	28,848
Teacher	Diocese of Pago Pago, American Samoa	66,130
Teacher	Don Bosco College & Vocational Technical Centre, Samoa	35,656
Institutional Development	Balibo Community Learning Centre, Timor Leste	85,724
English & Communications	Balibo Community Learning Centre, Timor Leste	67,560
TOTAL		909,446

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kevin Wilson
Greg Browne

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023		
	2023	2022
REVENUE		
Donations and Gifts	204,961	217,716
Grants	67,266	18,275
Investment Income	85,034	3,059
Other Income	25,906	53,581
TOTAL REVENUE	383,167	292,631
EXPENSES		
Funds to International Programs	48,729	4,327
Program Support Costs	216,497	218,642
Community Education	100,320	89,190
Public Fundraising Costs	15,934	16,621
Accountability and Administration	74,489	57,152
Other Expense	5,630	4,645
Loss on disposal of assets	0	0
Cost of goods sold - Fundraising expense	0	869
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	461,599	391,446
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(78,432)	(98,815)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Other comprehensive income for the year	0	0
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(78,432)	(98,815)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023		
	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	342,276	558,420
Trade and other receivables	71,562	34,354
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	589,214	527,806
Other financial assets	150,000	150,000
Property, plant and equipment	21,541	25,336
Right-of-use assets	27,817	806
Other assets		
TOTAL ASSETS	1,202,410	1,296,722
LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	12,476	18,673
Employee benefits	94,517	135,137
Contract liabilities	0	0
Lease liabilities	28,601	821
Deferred income	9,120	5,963
TOTAL LIABILITIES	144,714	160,594
NET ASSETS	1,057,696	1,136,128
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	1,057,696	1,136,128
TOTAL EQUITY	1,057,696	1,136,128

Please note: The information was extracted from the financial statements of Palms Australia for the year ended 30 June 2023. A complete set of financial statements and Independent Audit Report are available upon request.

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

Palms Australia
Directors' declaration
30 June 2023

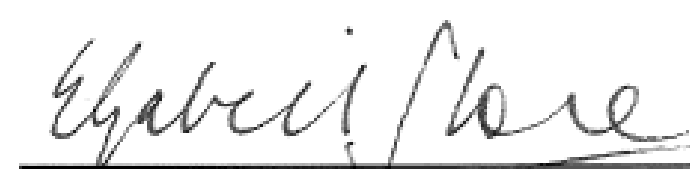
In the directors' opinion:

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosure, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements;
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.
- the accounts give a true and fair view of all income and expenditure with respect to fundraising appeals;
- the provisions and regulations of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the conditions attached to the fundraising authority have been complied with by the incorporated association; and
- the internal controls exercised by the company are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied by the organisation from any of its fundraising appeals.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of directors made pursuant to sub s. 60.15 (2) of Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission regulation 2022.

On behalf of the directors


Roger O'Halloran
Director


Elizabeth Stone
Chairperson

6 September 2023



Program participant Michele Rankin presenting a merit award to Davinho for effort in [learning English](#).
Balibo, Timor Leste

AUDITOR'S DECLARATION



p: 61 2 8238 6900

f: 61 2 8238 6999

Logicca Assurance Pty Limited

Level 6
151 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

GPO Box 5486
Sydney NSW 2001

ACN 119 952 233

ABN 84 119 952 233

www.logicca.com.au

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PALMS AUSTRALIA

ABN: 33 001 882 337

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

We have audited the financial report of Palms Australia, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of comprehensive income and statement of changes in equity, the statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible entities' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Palms Australia has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*.

Basis for opinion

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practical for the entity to maintain an effective system of internal control over cash donations and other fundraising activities until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to those activities was limited to amounts recorded.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the *New South Wales Associations Incorporation Act 2009*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibility of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the New South Wales Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (the Act) and its regulation and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar3.pdf. This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Opinion pursuant to the Charitable Fundraising Act (NSW) 1991

In our opinion:

- i. the Financial Report gives a true and fair view of the entity's financial result of fundraising appeal activities for the financial year ended 30 June 2023;
- ii. the Financial Report has been properly drawn up, and the associated records have been properly kept for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act (NSW) 1991 and Regulations;
- iii. money received as a result of fundraising appeal activities conducted during the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 has been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act (NSW) 1991 and Regulations; and
- iv. there are reasonable grounds to believe that the entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Name of firm: Logicca Assurance Pty Limited



Director: Peter Hersh OAM

Address: Level 6, 151 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dated this 6th September 2023

LOOKING FORWARD

2023

OCTOBER

Palms Re-Entry Workshop
Thailand & Cambodia Field Trip

NOVEMBER

Community Connections Webinar
Team Supporters Webinar

DECEMBER

Palms Christmas Appeal

2024

JANUARY

6-14 Palms 106th Orientation Course
7-10 Neighbours Without Borders Workshop

MARCH

Pacific Field Trip

APRIL

Palms Easter Raffle

MAY

Encounter Tour: Timor Leste



Little boat ride to Manono Island from Samoa on the last day of the Samoa | American Samoa Encounter

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**LIZ
STONE**
Chair

Director
since
Oct 2020

BA, MIntS, Grad Cert
Leadership, AGIA
General Secretary
National Council of
Churches in Australia



**GREG
BROWNE**
Treasurer

Director
since
Mar 2022

BEd, MBA, ICAA
Chartered Accountant,
self employed and
Palms participant
PNG 1996-98



**SAM
HADDIN**

Director
since
Oct 2020

BEd(Pri), BSocSc(Psych)
Teacher & REC
Holy Spirit Catholic
Primary School and
Palms participant Timor
Leste 2014-15



**ROGER
O'HALLORAN**
Exec Director

Director
since
Nov 2001

BA (Soc), Grad Dip Ed (Sec),
MEd (Leadership)
Executive Director
Palms Australia and
Palms participant
Western Samoa 1993-94



**SR PHILIPPA
MURPHY**

Director
since
Dec 2020

BEd, MEd(Leadership)
Provincial Leader
Daughters of Our Lady
of the Sacred Heart



**BRENDAN
JOYCE**

Director
since
Oct 2014

BSc, Grad Dip Ed(Sec),
Grad Cert RE, MSD
Website Manager
NSW Cancer Council
and Palms participant
PNG 2003-04



**DR STEPHEN
YATES**

Director
since
Oct 2020

MBBS, MPHTM,
FRACGP, FACRRM, FACTM
Senior Medical Officer
Warwick Hospital QLD and
Palms participant ZAMBIA 2013-14



**BEN
THURLEY**

Director
since
Oct 2020

BA(Hons), Dip.Ed(Sec), B Div
CEO International
Nepal Fellowship Australia



**JOHN
POWELL**

Director
since
May 2021

BA
Former Deputy Executive Director
UN World Food Programme and
Editor of Palms Publication Global
Educator

Leave a Bequest

Plant the seeds of hope for those in greatest need.

Bequests are a unique experience of giving. They allow you to make the kind of gifts which might be desirable, but impossible to give during your lifetime. As the ultimate expression of generosity your bequest will play an important role in the work of Palms Australia. The spirit and commitment of this support will continue to live on in the lives of requesting communities through the presence of Palms workers sharing their skills and goodwill.

Leaving a legacy is not a matter of choosing between your family and a good cause. You can provide for both, giving security for your family and building a more just world by supporting an overseas community.

To make a bequest to Palms Australia [CLICK HERE](#). For more information, contact Roger on 02 9560 5333 or roger@palms.org.au.



Students from St Joseph's School
Mae Ramat, Northern Thailand
Wearing Friday 'happy shirts'.

Thank you

Dear Supporter,

Thank you for your ongoing support of Palms Australia this financial year.

Your contribution is vital for impactful sustainable development in the grass roots communities with whom Palms works, and demonstrates to them that a stranger miles away cares about their future.

Balibo English class students on an outing to the local warung (cafe) with Program participant Anjelica Rankin and local Educator Rofina Aifuan, Timor Leste.



School Falefono (Meeting House)
Don Bosco College & Vocational Technical Centre
Photo taken by Program participant John Bradley Savai'i, Samoa.



Palms Australia

P0 Box 521, Leichhardt NSW 2040

Ph: (02) 9560 5333 | palms@palms.org.au | www.palms.org.au