

*Helping youth build a better future*



Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2023



**Salesian Missions**  
**AUSTRALIA**

The Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund  
Salesians of Don Bosco



Don Bosco Salesians are operating in 134 countries which includes many of the world's poorest nations. With a large contingent of about 28,000 committed religious men, women, volunteers and others, through a focus on education and training programs they are endeavouring to help youth and communities build a better future.

### **Education and Vocational Training**

Salesians provide education and support through schools, youth centres and vocational training programs in some of the poorest countries in the world. Through education, underprivileged youth are given a sense of personal dignity and self-worth, thereby breaking the cycle of poverty. Education provides young adults with the skills they need to secure employment and become self-sufficient, contributing members of their nation.

### **The Gift of Food and Clean Water**

All around the world children and families are in desperate need of food and clean water for their everyday survival. With access to clean water for drinking, cooking, washing and bathing, communities encounter fewer illnesses. Luncheon Programs in Salesian Schools reduce child malnutrition while increasing school attendance. Suitable bathroom and wash facilities at schools provide children with a happier and healthier learning environment.





### **Agriculture and Self-Sustainability**

Don Bosco Agricultural Colleges and Community Programs aim to assist locals to improve sustainable food availability through enhancing traditional farming methods. In most developing countries a high proportion of the population are subsistence farmers. The Agricultural Colleges support local farmers by demonstrating techniques to increase crop productivity, whilst students are taught ways to better care for livestock through practical experience. Obtaining local food security goes a long way in combating poverty and helping youth build a better future for themselves, their families and their nation.

### **Emergency Relief**

With a global presence in 136 countries, Salesians are well positioned to provide in consultation with the local community and organisations, direct aid and relief in times of natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies. By launching special fundraising Appeals, Salesian Missions can support programs that relieve famine in Africa, rebuild earthquake damaged schools in Nepal and Ecuador, assist flood victims in India, house internally displaced people in South Sudan, provide education, food and supplies in the face of pandemics and so much more.

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*Our Mission is to support our Partners in providing vocational teaching to underprivileged young people in developing countries, so that they may find employment and become self-sufficient contributing members of their nation.*



Cover Photo – Students from Don Bosco College Salelologa, Samoa (Feb 2023)

Our Work – Students from Don Bosco Cambodia (Jan 2024), Student from Don Bosco Agricultural College Fuiloro, Timor Leste (April 2023)

Above – Salesian College Chadstone Student Leaders meeting with Fr Angel Artime, SDB, Rector Major of the Salesians and Cardinal of the Church (July 2023)

# From the Director

Dear Friends,

Each day we hear stories of the challenges our Salesian partners face all over the world, however this is always lightened by their overwhelming gratitude for our donors on-going support.

The Salesians have a long history of commitment to education, training, support services and relief work. Their dedication to working closely with local communities is a key factor in their success. By operating at the grassroots level, the Salesians can better understand the specific challenges and needs of each community they serve.

This approach allows the Salesians to tailor their efforts to meet the unique circumstances and requirements of the people they work with. It also fosters a deeper connection and trust within the communities, making their programs and initiatives more effective and sustainable.

As mentioned forming a connection is a critical part of our work and this year a new initiative was undertaken with great success. A group of Australian teachers took part in an immersion to strengthen their understanding of Samoan Culture and the challenges our schools and the young people in Samoa experience.

As we face the soaring costs of living so do many of our

communities where we work. Prices of basic commodities, especially fuel and food have almost doubled in some regions, impacting the management of Don Bosco schools. This has been due to the economic crises after the COVID-19 pandemic and the change of weather that has caused food scarcity.

In 2023, Emergency Relief assistance continued in Ukraine, DR Congo, Ethiopia and Syria providing comfort to many seeking refuge. We were pleased to have disbursed over \$350,000.

Our Annual Report includes highlights from the inspiring projects making a real difference in 2023: the distribution of food and goods during an emergency, providing relief to those impacted by the civil unrest, providing education to those who otherwise would not have the opportunity and the establishment of community groups in remote locations to create new sources of income.

In 2023 we were able to distribute over \$2.178 million to educational and relief programs in 20 countries, changing the lives and strengthening the futures for many underprivileged youths.

We will also be initiating a number of changes in 2024 including updating our website.

Thank you for all your support for our important projects that give hope to the youth and communities in which they live throughout the world.

Kind regards  
Tina Newton  
Director



Right - Don Bosco Technical Centre Alafua (DBTC), Samoa, Hospitality Course Teacher Mrs Tasileta and ASMOAF Director Tina Newton (Feb 2023)  
Below – Education Immersion participants at DBTC, Samoa (May 2023)



# Connecting to our Partners

During the month of May a group of teachers and educators from Salesian schools around Australia travelled to Samoa for a Salesian Education Immersion. The main goal of the immersion was to give Australian teachers an experience of Samoa, particularly the education system. A long-term goal was to cultivate and deepen relationships between our Australian and Samoan schools.

This was the first time a program like this took place and those from Australia and Samoa enjoyed it immensely. A key component of the program was for the Australian teachers to stay with Samoan teachers in their homes. This was a beautiful experience where they could really get to know each other.

The 2023 Samoa education immersion was overwhelmingly a positive experience. The homestay experiences were wonderful and are a highlight of the program. I knew that this experience would have a significant impact on the lives of the participants, but during a final debrief session they all spoke of the fact it had been “life-changing” for them and had fundamentally altered the way they look at the world. This impact has exceeded expectations of what we were hoping it would achieve.

Kalinda Knight, a teacher from St. John Bosco College in Perth reflects on the experience: “There were so many highlights of this immersion experience. Firstly, the opportunity to connect with Salesian Teachers from around Australia and Samoa was enriching and rewarding. These connections are invaluable and are ones that I will cherish forever. We are definitely keeping the Salesian spirit alive!

The immersion experience itself, to fully immerse oneself into another culture was challenging but also rewarding at the same time. I was blown away by the Samoan culture and the genuine love and beauty displayed by the Samoan people. They truly are the most generous, selfless and happy people. They definitely remind us of what is important in life and put things into perspective.”

We look forward to many more education immersions to come and we sincerely thank our colleagues and Salesians in Samoa for such a warm welcome.

Lauren Hichaaba  
Pacific Development Co-Ordinator & Cagliero Project Director



# PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

## 2023 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

*We work together with local leaders that are passionate and agents of change within their communities.*

The Ukraine Relief continued to be our main focus in 2023 along with the Syrian Earthquake, African internal civil conflict and the running of our Don Bosco Schools in Samoa. Through the Don Bosco Network (DBN) a common point of contact is established when receiving information regarding emergencies to receive the information required to inform our donors.

Our Salesian partners are involved mostly in continuing projects for youth – work that has been established in response to local needs which include schools that care for marginalised street children and orphans. A major purpose in the Don Bosco Schools is to offer job related skills to youth enabling them to find gainful employment.

Requests for funding frequently involve help with the running costs of schools especially when local Government funding has declined. Assistance is needed to help with salaries, classroom materials, repair and maintenance of buildings.

## BRIDGING THE GAP IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A new initiative is taking place at the **Don Bosco Gabutu Learning Centre** in PNG, with a pro-active literacy and numeracy program aimed at children from the ‘poor settlements’ to attend school. These marginalised communities have established temporary settlements at the mercy of landowners adjacent to the school of which many have not received any formal education. Visits to the homes of each student ensures a better relationship with the parents and serves as an “**out of school**” follow-up on their situation and need. This also ensures that an appropriate approach can be adopted to cater for their needs more effectively. While children are attending classes, **mothers are also welcomed to attend basic life skill classes** where nutritional knowledge is shared and a meal is provided. Many of the families are single parents and have expressed appreciation and gratitude for the opportunities offered to their children.

Classes are divided into two groups: Senior students in the morning and younger students in the afternoon. This project is well monitored and shows that students have improved in self-discipline, personal hygiene, confidence, basic etiquette and a sense of responsibility and sociability.

Providing extracurricular activities such as art classes and sports including soccer and basketball are provided during the “sports hour”. Some celebrations have also been introduced to foster national and liturgical occasions, including birthday and picnic outings. The staff's efforts in monitoring students' progress, health, hygiene and providing necessary resources such as stationery and uniforms, showcase a commitment to the students' holistic well-being.



Above – Students at the Early Learning Centre in Gabutu, PNG (Mar1 2023)



## VIETNAM – CREATING OPPORTUNITIES!

The Salesians of Don Bosco School, particularly through the support via the **West Highlands Education project**, have made significant strides in supporting underprivileged students by providing tuition and ensuring teachers and coaches receive salaries. By **incorporating diverse extracurricular activities like football, basketball, volleyball, table tennis and dancing**, they offer not only educational but also social and sporting opportunities. These activities enhanced the students' skills and foster self-confidence and teamwork.

In the **Nghe An Province** basic food items and medical supplies were provided for the elderly as well as orphans and people with disabilities by the **Sisters of Charity**. This charitable endeavour helped ensure essential needs were met, contributing to their well-being and health.

In the **Chau Thanh District**, support was extended to the impoverished community by constructing homes for those living in dilapidated shelters that posed health risks, particularly for the elderly. Additionally, in response to the issue of contaminated floodwaters, domestic clear water containers were distributed to numerous families, addressing the immediate need for clean and safe water in the wake of flooding.

## SOLOMON ISLANDS – IMPROVING FEMALE LITERACY!

The **Salesian Sisters' Hostel in Henderson** plays a crucial role in providing safe accommodation for young women from economically deprived backgrounds in Honiara.

In a region where only 7 percent of females have the opportunity to complete high school and a mere 20 percent of female adults are literate, **the Sisters' efforts are pivotal in addressing this educational gap**. The hostel is a beacon of hope, offering young women a chance to pursue their studies and create a better future for themselves.

The **Home Economics Course** is a crucial initiative that responds directly to the local needs of women with limited formal education. By imparting basic literacy, numeracy, computing and practical skills in areas like dressmaking, catering, cooking and health awareness, the course is **empowering women with essential life skills**. Furthermore, teaching home and small business management contributes significantly to their economic independence and self-sustainability. With an emphasis on practical skills such as textiles and sewing not only enhances their capabilities but also opens doors for potential employment or entrepreneurship opportunities.



Don Bosco Technical Centre Alafua, Samoa, Hospitality Course (Feb 2023)

## SAMOA - EDUCATION IS THE KEY

In February 2023, I had the profoundly moving experience of witnessing firsthand the realities of life in Fiji and Samoa. It was truly inspiring to see the positive impact that our two Samoan schools and the Fijian Centre are having on local youth and the surrounding communities.

In Fiji, the Don Bosco Youth and Education Centre in Suva serves as a safe haven where local youth can learn, play, and enjoy each other's company. Located about five hours away from the well-known Fijian resorts, the Centre is nestled among settlements like Muanikoso, where large families live in very basic conditions. I was blessed with the opportunity to meet several families who welcomed me into their homes and shared their stories of hardship and hope. The work being done by the Salesians in these communities is invaluable, and we hope you can continue to support their efforts and meet the many needs of the people they serve.

Visiting both Don Bosco schools in Samoa was another highlight of the trip. These schools offer Technical Training Programs aimed at providing students with a holistic education that includes English, mathematics, computer studies, leadership skills, and spiritual growth. It was a pleasure to meet the staff and students during a traditional welcoming ceremony that showcased the immense pride Samoans have in their culture and their deep appreciation for the assistance they have received.

During my visit, it became clear just how crucial support for school programs is, particularly in the form of scholarships, as many students come from families facing financial hardship. The ultimate goal of these schools is for students to obtain a formally recognized qualification and secure employment upon completing their studies. The schools offer three-year courses in fields such as electrical and electronics, carpentry, plumbing, metal fabrication, motor mechanics, and, more recently, hospitality.

In June 2023, Don Bosco in Salelologa held an online Tausala (fundraiser) in August to raise much-needed funds for the purchase of a bus and other school equipment. The bus is essential in providing students from rural areas with access to education. The students, teachers, and staff danced throughout the day and into the night to garner support for the school. The event was a tremendous success, raising nearly A\$75,000. Current Cagliari volunteers, Billy, Nora, and Naomi, joined in the festivities and fun. Fr. Petelo would like to extend his heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated, especially the families and friends who generously donated.

Operating costs on the remote island of Savai'i remain a significant challenge. However, thanks to the generous support of the Engadine Parish Community, students can access the education they so deeply desire. This support is crucial in ensuring that these young people continue to receive the opportunities they need to grow and succeed.

Tina Newton

# Timor Leste

*The aim is to break the 'Cycle of Poverty' through Education and Training.*

Timor Leste, our northern neighbour, is located only 680km from Darwin. Despite its natural resources, it faces economic challenges, and a significant portion of its population live below the poverty line. **The Don Bosco Salesian Schools and Technical and Vocational Training Centres** play a crucial role in addressing this issue by providing education and skill development opportunities.

With 95% of the **Salesians locally born**, this demonstrates a strong commitment to the community and a deep understanding of the needs and challenges faced by the Timorese people.

The **Don Bosco Technical School in Maliana**, with support from the **O'Brien Foundation Australia**, has successfully upgraded its electrical course to include solar panel installations. Over a ten-day training and implementation program, both teachers and students received valuable knowledge and hands-on experience in installing solar systems, including panels. This initiative not only enhanced the participants' skills but also contributed to the **school's sustainability**, as the school and boarding house now rely on solar energy. Despite facing challenges during the process, the program's outcomes have been highly beneficial, promoting sustainability and providing practical education in renewable energy.



Don Bosco Technical School Maliana, Timor Leste Br Marcal with electrical students (Nov 2023) training and gaining practical experience installing Solar System at the School.



Don Bosco Technical School, Fatumaca,  
Timor Leste (Mar 2023)

In **Fuiloro 80% of the community earn their living through farming. The Don Bosco Agricultural College** gives students the opportunity to learn both efficient horticulture and animal husbandry by combining old and new technology with agricultural science. Produce is used both to feed the school boarders and to sell to the community. **More than 85% of Timor Leste's population live on income generated by agriculture and farming.**

In Fatumaca the Don Bosco Technical School has more than 250 students, 11% of whom are girls. All students attending the school take one of the three-year courses in carpentry, mechanics and electronics. The complex also offers a primary and secondary school for young students from local villages and a successful agriculture school with programs that reach 15 of the surrounding villages. It is always a challenge to meet the on-going running costs of the schools and through donors support we can continue our **contribution towards teachers' salaries and utility costs.**

The **Don Bosco High Schools and Technical Centres in Baucau, Comoro, Laga, Maliana and Venilale** offer courses in job related skills where youth from remote poor villages can access education. It is always a challenge to meet the running costs of the schools as government funding has declined. **We appreciate donors support** to help meet the costs of salaries, utility and equipment. Luncheon programs are also provided to ensure students receive a nutritional meal each day.

The **Sisters Maria Mazzarello Technical Vocational High School in Venilale**, offers education in the usual range of academic subjects as well as basic training in hospitality, tourism and hotel management. Girls from remote villages can find accommodation in the boarding house and the Sisters Orphanage. We were able to assist the Orphanage in **making repairs and replace the roof and ceiling** in the bathroom and laundry.

Serving over **14 surrounding villages**, the **Sisters Maria Auxiliadora Medical Clinic in Venilale** encourages good health through the education of students and families whilst maintaining treatment of general illnesses and diseases. Mothers and babies are a priority, together with the care of tuberculosis patients. We continue to assist the clinic with **milk products and medicines.**



Savio Bhavan Rehabilitation Centre, Bidar, India (Feb 2024)

## INDIA – Finding Hope through Don Bosco Programs

Don Bosco Centre's offer a comprehensive range of programs and initiatives in various regions of India, all focused towards **supporting and empowering marginalized communities**. From education for rural, tribal and street children to rehabilitation centres for child laborers, these efforts are addressing **critical issues like child labour, education access, gender equality and substance abuse**. The new Laura Bhavan Rehabilitation Centre is a well-equipped child labour centre which enables the rescue and rehabilitation of child labourers in a healthy environment suitable for their overall development.

In specific regions like **Bangalore, Kerala, Matunga and New Delhi**, Don Bosco's interventions are tailored to the needs of the local communities. The emphasis on education through traditional schooling, as well as innovative approaches like online learning in remote areas, showcases a commitment to ensuring educational opportunities reach even the most marginalized children.

In **four districts of Karnataka**, the initiatives **targeting gender inequality, violence against women and empowering women** are particularly commendable. By providing training and support, especially in skills development and self-reliance, these programs contribute to breaking gender barriers and empowering women to be agents of change within their communities.

Additionally, the focus on providing vocational training, such as tailoring and computer-based literacy, not only supports job opportunities but also fosters financial independence and improved livelihoods for individuals in these regions. At the heart of the Don Bosco's mission in Matunga and Bangalore lies the determination to **assist minority groups by offering self-help training programs** where street children are encouraged to obtain life skills and education to eventually secure meaningful jobs and live independently.

Don Bosco's efforts in **drug rehabilitation**, adult literacy and support for underprivileged members highlight a multifaceted approach aimed at improving the quality of life and offering hope to those in need.

Supporting these programs would not only sustain the positive impact they have made but also expand their reach to further transform lives and offer hope to more individuals in need. These initiatives not only **address immediate challenges** but also work towards building a more equitable and empowered society in the long term.

# AFRICA

## Creating communities in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps



The Salesians of Don Bosco are playing a crucial role in various countries throughout Africa, including **Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, DR Congo (DRC) and Uganda**. Their work spans across multiple sectors, including education, technical training, youth centres and support for refugee camps.

Ongoing conflicts, civil unrest and challenging climatic conditions have led to **food shortages and refugee displacement** in the region. Salesians are actively involved in assisting refugees, providing essential supplies and aiding thousands of families as they seek safer locations.

In **Juba, South Sudan and in Palabek, Uganda**, displaced persons' camps accommodate approximately **90,000 refugees**. The Salesians are running education programs and coordinating **efforts focused on efficient food production methods**. Additionally, they encourage the formation of community support groups and create opportunities for small businesses.

**Fr Shyjan George** in South Sudan explains: “education remains our focus; we are committed to being the voice for the voiceless, to make stories known. Please continue your support to assist this vital work. You can view our documentary entitle “Interrupted Meal” via Youtube.”

In the **DR Congo** there are numerous cases of advanced **malnutrition in the IDP camps** at the Don Bosco Shasha and Rusavo Communities. Small meals were given to children showing signs of malnutrition whilst also providing hundreds of households with food rations and supplies. Many vulnerable people are sick, however medication can only be dispensed once they receive nutrition. **“We would like to thank all the Salesian Missions benefactors who are helping to make this possible. Union of prayers.” Fr. Carlos Balezi.**

Top : Displace People in DR Congo (Jun 2023)

# EMERGENCY SUPPORT

## Re-establishing safe schools in UKRAINE

The war continues; however, I am pleased to report the Salesians remain committed to their **unwavering dedication** by making a real impact to Ukrainian lives by providing shelter, comfort, security and goods to those in need. The renovation of a Bunker Facility in Lviv is complete. It provides a safe shelter for up to 750 locals to retreat during continued bomb raids.

With **declining donations** locally and throughout Europe, the Salesians have **shifted their focus** to ensure that schools in Ukraine remain safe, comfortable, and well-equipped for students. It is crucial that these schools continue to operate as normally as possible to provide stability for the local youth during these challenging times. Beyond education, the schools serve as community hubs where locals can gather, share stories, and engage in social activities. Your continued support has been incredible and is of immense importance to those in need.



Top : Ukraine Relief, early childhood learn Lviv, Ukraine (June 2023)

Staff and volunteers alongside the Salesians in Ukraine, continue to provide **crucial support to locals** who have been isolated due to the ongoing war. They are delivering much-needed food, clothing, supplies, and other essential items. Refugees, predominantly women and children, who have fled to neighbouring countries, have been provided with safe shelter and access to vital support services. We extend our gratitude to Viatores Cum Christo for sponsoring the refurbishment and renovation of ten self-contained rooms for refugees in Poland, which will serve as short-stay accommodation as they transition to more permanent housing.

## Earthquake relief in SYRIA

With the launch of our **Syrian Earthquake** Appeal, we were informed about the extensive coordinated responses in Aleppo and the surrounding areas. The relief efforts have included distributing meals, providing educational support to refugee children, organizing summer activities and recreation for **psychosocial support**, and offering **counselling** to those who have lost family members. Additionally, a program to assist people with visa applications is currently being discussed and will be implemented soon. The donated funds have been instrumental in supporting several of these initiatives.

Local Salesians in Syria continue to provide crucial assistance to those who remain displaced after the earthquake. **Trauma Healing Courses** have been particularly successful, empowering participants with the motivation and strength to continue caring for those in need.

# PRINCIPLES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

## PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY

Salesian Missions Australia has in place stringent standards for accountability and transparency both in its domestic organisation and for overseas partners. We insist that all our Overseas Partners be accountable for the funds they receive from our office. All Partners are required to sign a Partners Agreement which also enforces the need to be aware of our Policies and Guidelines and integrate these compliance documents into their operations. Policies and Guidelines can be found on our website : [www.salesianmissionsaus.org.au](http://www.salesianmissionsaus.org.au)

## CHILD SAFEGUARDING

Salesian Missions Australia Child Safeguarding Policy was established in 2010 and reviewed in 2017, 2020 and scheduled for review in 2024. It has been implemented locally; each member of staff has a copy and the mandatory police checks completed.

Our Overseas Partners subscribe to our Child Safeguarding Policy and are informed of the requirements for the safety and best interests of children;

- the rights of the child are paramount;
- compliance is mandatory; and
- the local Provincials of the Salesians and the Salesian Sisters will oversee its administration.

All Overseas Partners are required to “sign off” on the Child Safeguarding Policy as a condition of receiving funds.

The Child Safeguarding Policy (CSP) has been well received by all our Partners. Our Partners in Salesian orphanages, schools and community centres are required to ensure that their staff are well briefed and educated on safeguarding. They conduct regular training programs and run sessions for students on their rights, responsibilities and ability to speak out.

## PRIVACY

We are committed to protecting the privacy of donors and correspondents. Any information provided to us remains private and confidential. Our contact list is not rented, sold or exchanged.



Don Bosco Technical School Comoro, Timor Leste (June 2023)

## GENDER EQUITY

Salesian Missions Australia is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in employment and accepts that it has a responsibility to create an environment free of discrimination, victimisation, sexual harassment and vilification - in accordance with the articles of the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act (1995) regarding staff appointments and management, and with the Salesian Society (Vic) Inc. Code of Conduct, Sex Discrimination and Harassment policies. The principle of gender equity is also underlined in our Working Agreement with our Overseas Partners which must be adopted prior to engagement.

Salesian Missions Australia is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting internationally recognised human rights for all, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, indigeneity, disability, age, displacement, caste, gender, gender identity, sexuality, sexual orientation, poverty, class or socio-economic status. To enable people to realise their rights and assist those responsible for upholding such rights as equality, freedom from discrimination and access to education, in line with the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct.

## ACFID

Salesian Missions Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), an association of non-government organisations in Australia working in the field of international aid and development.



Salesian Missions Australia is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct which specifies standards in organisational integrity, governance, communication with the public, finances, personnel and management practice. Our financial reports comply with the standards set by the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information, the ACFID Code can be found at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)

In 2020 Salesian Missions Australia underwent a Self-Assessment of its ability to comply with ACFID's Code of Conduct principles and procedures. We are pleased to advise we are Compliant to the Code and have also developed a number of Policies and Guidelines to guide our operations. These documents can be viewed on our website [www.salesianmissionsaus.org.au](http://www.salesianmissionsaus.org.au). We are committed to full adherence of the ACFID Code of Conduct.

## COMPLAINTS

We welcome complaints to improve the way we work and help us to achieve better outcomes in the communities in which we work. In accordance with ACFID's Code of Conduct, ASMOAF has a Complaints Policy.

Donors, Partners or any beneficiary of Salesian Missions Australia projects who wish to complain about any aspect of our management and procedures, may lodge the complaint in writing and forward it to:

### **The Chairman**

ASMOAF Governing Board  
Salesian Province Centre  
P O Box 264  
ASCOT VALE Vic 3032

Our Complaints Policy is on our website. Complaints concerning Code of Conduct breaches should be directed to:

The Chairman  
ACFID Code of Conduct  
Locked Bag 3  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

# Our Board

*Our Board in 2023 meet monthly, serving in a voluntary capacity. They are:*



**Fr William Matthews, M Theol (MCD), Dip Ed (ACU) - Chairman**

Fr William Matthews, Chairman, is Provincial of the Salesian Australian Pacific Province. He is a former Rector and Teacher at both Salesian College Rupertswood, Sunbury, and St Joseph's College Ferntree Gully, Vic. He is a former Chaplain and Teacher at Xavier College, Gawler, SA. He is a Chaplain to Myanmar Migrants and Refugees and an IT Multi Media Consultant.



**Fr Peter Hoang, B Theol (MCD), B Ed(ACU) M RE (ACU)**

Fr Peter Hoang, Vice Provincial and Deputy Chair, Delegate for Social Communications, Rector and Chaplain at Salesian College Sunbury. Previously, Rector of Salesian Community and Chaplain at St. John Bosco College and Dunlea Centre Engadine. Former REC of Dominic College Glenorchy.



**Fr Peter Carroll, B.A. B Theol (MCD), Dip Ed (ACU)**

Fr Peter Carroll is Provincial Economist (Executive Officer of the Salesian Society in Australia) and is currently Rector of the Salesian Province Centre Ascot Vale, Vic. Currently the Spiritual Relations Manager for Salesian Missions. Member of the pioneer Salesian Community in Samoa; he has made regular visits to ASMOAF sponsored projects in Samoa and Fiji.



**Fr Brian Ahern Dip T (Prim) ACU, B Ed ACU, B Theol & MTh (MCD)**

Fr Brian is the Youth Ministry Delegate and Vocations Animator for the Australian Salesian Province. Burser Salesian Community Sunbury. Former chaplain, teacher and REC of Dominic College Glenorchy and Xavier College Gawler.



**Fr Anthony Dung B Theol (DBCS)**

Fr Anthony Dung, currently Delegate for Formation for the Australian / Pacific Province, Vice Rector at Clifton Hill and Lecturer at CTC. Formerly Formation Professor at Don Bosco Philippines Northern Province from 2009.



**Fr Mosese Tui - B Theol (MCD)**

Fr Mosese Tui is Provincial Councillor, Delegate for the Pacific and Acting Rector Salesian Community and Parish Priest at Massey, New Zealand. He is a former Principal of Don Bosco High School and Vocational College, Salelologa, Samoa.

# Financial Snapshot

## Our Team



Tina Newton  
Director



Olga Elliott  
Office Manager



Lauren Hichaaba, Pacific  
Development Co-Ordinator

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the Fund during the year were:

- ✓ the provision of financial assistance for ongoing projects in developing countries for the benefit of the underprivileged, especially the young; and
- ✓ the provision of aid directly to people in need of relief.

### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Salesian Missions Australia is owned and operated by Salesian Society (Vic) Inc. It attracts support from donors all over Australia. Total revenue raised in 2023 for overseas development work was \$1,814,296, a decrease of \$605,902 on donations received in the previous year. This is mainly due to donations for victims of the Ukraine War in 2022. Also a decrease in the funds received through bequests.

Total expenditure was \$2,178,828 which consisted of transfers to overseas partners and various administrative costs. There is \$852,090 available for distribution in 2024.

The operating result for the year ended December 31, 2023 declined by \$364,532 as reduction in the amount of funds were received from donors.

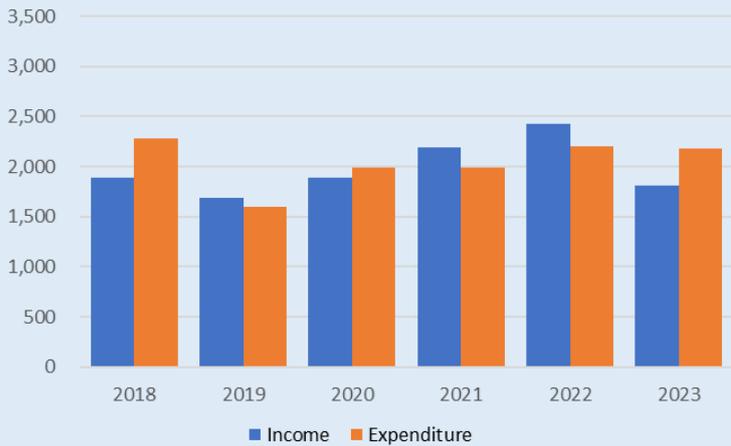
With regard to expenditure: There has been little variation over the years in the funds allocated for (i) development and education, (ii) relief and rehabilitation and (iii) religious purposes. Every effort is made to keep administration costs low.

Funds are raised by requests via -

- The Salesian Missions Newsletter
- Social Media Posts and Articles
- Direct mail to supporters of specific countries e.g. Pacific, Ethiopia, South Sudan, India and Timor-Leste.
- Fundraisers organised by supporters for a specific project.
- Fundraising activities in schools and special collections in parishes
- Articles in the *Salesian Bulletin* and Catholic Press.

## DONORS' WISHES

### Income vs Expenditure (000)



More than 90 per cent of the donations received by Salesian Missions Australia are earmarked for destinations specified by the donor.

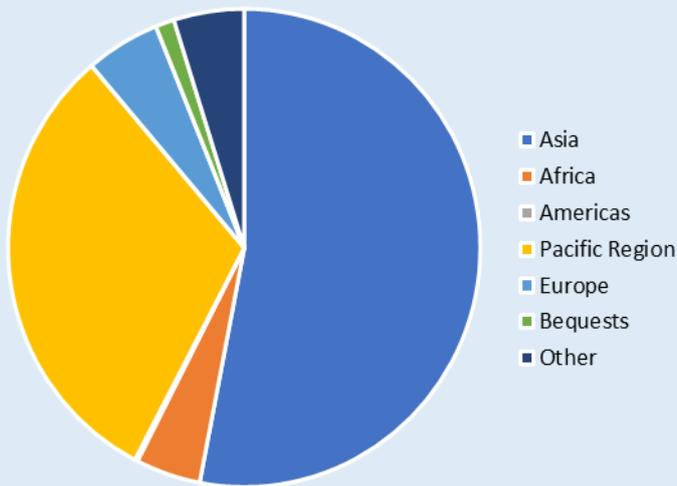
Most donations are for the reduction of poverty through development via education in schools and vocational training centres, the provision of technical services and resources etc.

Donations are received from some donors for non-development activity, which, in our context is for religious purposes, such as the education and training of clergy and/or the building of churches.

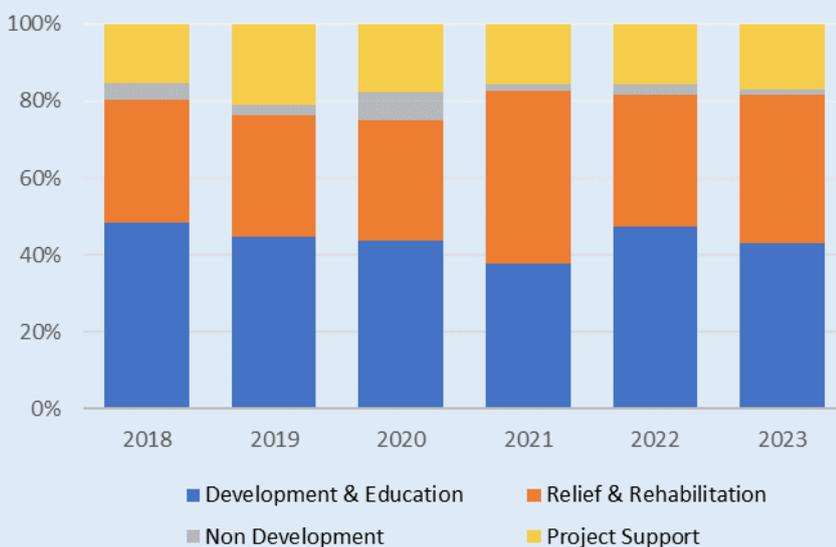
Salesian Missions Australia has formalised its long-standing practice regarding donations and has drawn up specific guidelines, which, in summary are:

- All donations are receipted.
- Donations for humanitarian relief and development are tax deductible.
- Funds received for religious purposes are clearly delineated, do not qualify for tax deductibility and are clearly delineated in the financial documents and communications.
- Salesian Missions will not accept donations for political purposes.
- Donor forms are clearly marked to indicate the intention of the donation.

### Income by Region %



### Expenditure %



## OUR VALUES

### As Salesians we draw our inspiration from Catholic Social Teaching.

**Human dignity** - We recognise the sacredness of life and that every person has inherent dignity and worth. Our human rights and responsibilities are founded in this essential, shared human dignity.

**The common good** - We have responsibility for one another in our life together, and are called to work for the common good of all. We advocate for a just society in which all people, particularly the vulnerable and marginalised, are able to flourish and meet their needs.

**Subsidiarity and Participation** - The capacity and capabilities of people and communities ought to be respected, with decisions made at the lowest local level possible. Everyone should have the opportunity to participate in and contribute to decision processes that closely affect them.

**Solidarity** - Humans are social by nature and depend on one another. We seek to stand in unity with each other, particularly those who are powerless or disadvantaged, and recognise each persons' rights regardless of national, religious, ethnic, economic, political and ideological differences.

**Preferential care for the poor** - Caring for the poor is the responsibility of all, the needs of the socially disadvantaged and vulnerable are to be prioritised.

**Economic justice** – Life is not solely meant for profit, but rather in service of the entire human community. All that are capable should be involved in economic activity and should be able to draw from work, the means for providing for themselves and their family.

**Stewardship of creation** - We care for the earth, recognising that all of creation is inter-connected and we are part of and dependent on the environment. Pope Francis has recently referred to this as integral ecology.

These principles are the basis of our dedication to the preservation and protection of Human Rights for all in accordance to a Human Rights Based Approach: enabling people to realise their rights and assist those responsible for upholding such rights as equality, freedom from discrimination and access to education.



Say NO to Drugs education Program, Bangalore, India ( Jun 2023)



**Develop** an ongoing understanding and connection with partners to better understand and evaluate needs and challenges. Build upon the connection to Australian local schools to explore a global Salesian Family.

**Encourage** the renewal of our policies and procedures to ensure a greater commitment to change and equality.

**Empower** young people and minority groups by supporting our partners to deliver a quality and inclusive education system that ensures opportunities are targeted to those in need.

**Plan, Monitor and Evaluate** projects to deepen our understanding in the delivery of successful, positive and sustainable outcomes. Strengthen the ability for feedback to our partners to deepen a mutual beneficial relationship and connection which delivers positive outcomes for all.

**Strengthen** our relationship and connection with our schools and supporters, be present in the understanding of needs and use new ways to feedback project outcomes and success stories to improve engagement.

**Explore** new initiatives and technology to secure ongoing support for our work and invest in staff, systems, technology and training to improve effectiveness and success.

**Learn** from past experiences and listen to our partners and stakeholders to deliver stronger sustainable outcomes.

# Our Financial Statements

*Our Commitment to donors is to ensure every effort is made to maximise the value of their contribution. More than 90% of donations received by Salesian Missions Australia are earmarked for destinations specified by donors. Donors wishes are respected whilst making sure administration costs are kept low.*

## INCOME STATEMENT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

		2023	2022
		\$	\$
<b>Notes</b>	<b>Revenue</b>		
<b>1</b>	Donations and Gifts		
	-Monetary	1,735,467	1,947,250
<b>2</b>	Bequests and Legacies	23,285	420,511
		<u>1,758,752</u>	<u>2,367,761</u>
<b>3</b>	Other Income	0	0
<b>4</b>	Investment Income	23,639	3,941
<b>5</b>	Revenue for International, Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs	31,905	48,496
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>1,814,296</u>	<u>2,420,198</u>
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
	International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
<b>6</b>	International Programs		
	- Funds to overseas projects	1,784,618	1,817,270
<b>7</b>	- Program support costs	72,676	64,609
<b>8</b>	Community Education	49,958	44,115
<b>9</b>	Fund raising costs		
	- Public	119,426	109,339
<b>10</b>	Accountability and Administration	127,526	128,965
	Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure	<u>2,154,204</u>	<u>2,164,298</u>
	International, Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Expenditure	24,624	33,583
<b>11</b>	Domestic Program Expenditure	0	0
<b>12</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>2,178,828</u>	<u>2,197,881</u>
	Excess/(Shortfall) of revenue over expenditure	(364,532)	222,317
<b>13</b>	Provision for Long Service Leave	0	0
		<u>(364,532)</u>	<u>222,317</u>
	Extraordinary Items		
	Funds available for future use at the beginning of the financial year	<u>1,216,622</u>	994,305
<b>14</b>	Funds available at the end of the financial year for future use	<u>852,090</u>	<u>1,216,622</u>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	899,507	1,269,470
Trade and other receivables	6,468	921
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>905,975</b>	<b>1,270,391</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
Trade and Other Receivables	0	0
Other financial assets	0	0
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>905,975</b>	<b>1,270,391</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	1,540	1,424
15 Provisions	52,345	52,345
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>53,885</b>	<b>53,769</b>
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>53,885</b>	<b>53,769</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>852,090</b>	<b>1,216,622</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
16 Reserves	1,216,622	994,305
Retained Earnings	(364,532)	222,317
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>852,090</b>	<b>1,216,622</b>

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY YEAR ENDED DEC 31, 2023

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Other	Total
Balance at January 1, 2023	1,216,622	0	0	1,216,622
Adjustments to equity	0	0	0	0
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	(364,532)	0	0	(364,532)
Other amounts transferred from Reserves	0	0	0	0
Balance at December 31, 2023	<b>852,090</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>852,090</b>

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC 31, 2023

Bank Balance January 1, 2023	1,216,622
Debtors	0
Income for the year ended December 31, 2023	1,814,296
	3,030,918
Expenditure for the year ended December 31, 2023	2,178,828
Bank Balance December 31, 2023	<b>852,090</b>

## TABLE OF CASH MOVEMENTS FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Cash available beginning of financial year	Cash raised during financial year	Cash disbursed during financial year	Cash available at end of financial year
<b>Asia</b>				
India	169,213	344,854	348,759	165,308
Timor Leste	201,422	355,930	408,853	148,500
Vietnam	179,446	115,380	263,924	30,902
Nepal	1,409	3,200	2,406	2,203
Philippines	10,841	10,370	11,872	9,339
Pakistan	6,315	3,940	9,253	1,002
Myanmar	2,784	503	3,193	94
Sri Lanka	910	1,020	102	1,828
Cambodia	1,677	3,350	2,517	2,510
Hong Kong	99	0	0	99
Mongolia	4,834	10,000	10,000	4,834
<b>Africa</b>				
Ethiopia	18,081	26,490	31,887	12,684
Congo	59	17,260	10,391	6,928
South Sudan	14,179	9,579	14,628	9,130
Swaziland	0	0	0	0
Kenya	1,501	1,700	946	2,255
<b>Central America</b>				
Guatemala	275	1,330	166	1,439
<b>South America</b>				
Ecuador	473	2,145	325	2,293
<b>Pacific</b>				
Samoa	56,388	556,508	521,732	91,164
Papua New Guinea	0	175	0	175
Solomon Islands	4,341	4,365	5,600	3,106
Fiji	10,036	3,800	946	12,890
<b>North of the Sahara</b>				
Egypt	713	2,150	542	2,321
Emergency Fund	92,090	231,583	302,306	21,366
General Account	203,062	59,700	90,898	171,864
Bequests	226,619	23,285	112,038	137,866
Cagliero	-1	2,040	2,048	-9
Interest	9,856	23,639	23,494	10,001
	<b>1,216,622</b>	<b>1,814,296</b>	<b>2,197,881</b>	<b>852,090</b>

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END DEC 31, 2023

**1 Donations - \$1,735,467**

Funds amounting to \$1,465,767 were used for projects in Asia, Africa, Central & South America and the Pacific. \$260,700 was in the form of general donations, of this \$269,210 was for Development/Education and \$490 was for Non-Development purposes.

**2 Bequests and Legacies**

\$23,285 was received in Bequests for Development and Non Development Purposes.

**3 Grants**

No Government or other grants were received by Salesian Missions Australia during 2023.

**4 Investment Income**

\$23,639 was received by Salesian Missions Australia during the year as interest on funds held and invested.

**5 Revenue for International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs**

\$31,905 was received for religious purposes - specifically for the education and training of clergy and the building of churches.

**6 International Programs**

\$1,784,618 was allocated for development projects in the following regions: Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Pacific.

**7 Program Support Costs - \$72,676** was spent on costs associated with the monitoring of projects

Salaries	58,106
Rent	6,425
Utilities	615
Computer, Internet	5,454
Printing	144
Travel	1,932
	<b>72,676</b>

**8 Community Education - \$49,958**

Stipends	23,243
Salesian Bulletin	12,629
Rent	2,570
Utilities	246
Newsletter	11,270
	<b>49,958</b>

**9 Fund raising costs - \$119,426** All advertising in 2023 was public. The money was spent on fundraising material and advertisements aimed at securing support for development projects abroad.

Salaries	81,349
Rent	8,995
Utilities	861
Salesian Bulletin	12,629
Newsletter Advertising	11,542
Printing	432
Postage	1,686
Travel	1,932
	<b>119,426</b>

**10 Accountability & Administration- \$127,526**

Costs were incurred for:

Salaries	79,060
Bank charges	7,544
Rent	7,710
Utilities	738
Vehicle	15
Printing	864
Postage	421
ACFID Subscription	10,184
Audit	7,500
Telephone	321
Stationery & Subscriptions	4,988
Computer, Internet	8,181
	<hr/>
	<b>127,526</b>

**11 Expenditure on International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs**

\$24,624 was transferred for Non-Development purposes, the education and training of clergy and the building of churches.

**12 Domestic Program Expenditure**

Salesian Missions Australia did not fund any domestic projects in 2023.

**13 Long Service Leave**

Nil.

**14 Funds available for future use**

\$852,090 is available for allocation during 2024.

**15 Provisions**

A provision of \$52,345 was created to ensure overheads are covered for a period of 6 weeks.

**16 Reserves**

Other than the funds available for future use, no other reserves were created in 2023.

**Auditor**

Mr Jamie Ryan CTA FCA, from V J Ryan & Co Services Pty Limited of Level 5, 255 George Street, Sydney 2000, has been appointed as auditor of the Australian Salesian Missions Overseas Aid Fund for the year ending December 31, 2024.

14<sup>d</sup> May 2024

**KEVIN F. JONES** FCA  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT  
A.B.N. 83 658 169 488

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MOBILE: 0419 305 808  
EMAIL: kevin@kevinjones.com.au

### **2023 Audit Report**

I, Kevin Francis Jones, Chartered Accountant of 164 Wanda Street, Mulgrave, Victoria, have audited the Financial Reports of the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. That Report shows Total Assets of \$905,975.

The Salesian Society Inc is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Financial Report and the information contained therein.

I have conducted an independent audit of the Financial Report in order to express an opinion on it to the Salesian Society Inc and to Government Bodies requiring such an opinion.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the Financial Report is free of material misstatement.

My procedures included examination on a test basis of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the Financial Report and the evaluation of accounting policies.

The procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects the Financial Report is presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Fund's financial position and the results of its operations.

### **Audit Opinion**

In my opinion the Financial Report represents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund as at the 31 December 2023 and complies with the format required by the ACFID Code of Conduct.

Yours Faithfully



Kevin F Jones, FCA  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT