Our partner organisations overseas are currently working to relieve poverty, promote human rights and support local development. They urgently need skilled volunteers to help them in their efforts.

“Our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever.”

— Kofi Annan, Secretary General, United Nations

» The Australian Volunteer Program

A life-changing experience can start right now

Australian Volunteers International (AVI) recruits more than 300 Australians each year to live and work in Asia, the Pacific, Africa and the Middle East.

Find out how you can be one of them.
Some facts about the Volunteer Program:

» It responds to the needs of local people
AVI volunteers are placed at the specific request of organisations that support developing communities. These organisations work in health, education, governance, human rights and rural development. Volunteers build on the skills of local staff, and enable their host organisations to extend and improve their services.

» It is supported by the Australian Government
AusAID, the Australian Government’s overseas aid program, is proud to provide significant support for Australian volunteers who work in a development capacity overseas. AVI volunteers support the objectives of the Australian aid program.

» It is a life-changing experience for volunteers
By sharing the lives of local people, AVI volunteers have a unique and powerful experience that leads to lasting life changes and increased self-confidence.

» It covers the needs of volunteers in the field
AVI volunteers receive airfares, accommodation, health and travel insurance, a regular living allowance, and support from AVI throughout their assignments.

» It offers a choice of assignments
The program offers both long-term assignments (18-36 months) and short-term assignments (3-12 months). All assignments include training staff and developing the capacity of local organisations.

» Australian organisations can also participate
There are many ways for Australian organisations to share in the benefits of the Volunteer Program – including staff secondments, building on existing international programs, or by offering mentoring and resources to volunteers in the field.

Connecting Communities
Victorian local councils often support AVI volunteers in Timor-Leste, to build links between Victorian and Timorese cities. AVI volunteer Lorraine McBride is working with the Baucau Community Learning Centre, on projects that assist local women and their livelihoods. She is supported by the cities of Darebin and Yarra.

Photos > Debra Plueckhahn

“I shall walk away from Moresby gaining more from my time here than I feel I have contributed. Working here as a volunteer offers a job satisfaction not often found.”
– Mark Dennis, AVI volunteer at the Port Moresby City Mission, Papua New Guinea
We recruit volunteers from many professions, including:

» Agriculture
» Business, Management & Law
» Community Development
» Education & Training
» Engineering
» Environment
» Finance & Economics
» Health
» Information Technology
» Hospitality & Tourism
» Media & Communications
» Skilled trades

To be an AVI volunteer you will need:

» Qualifications or relevant experience in your field
» Respect for people of other cultures
» A willingness to listen to, and learn from, other people
» The ability to adapt to changing situations
» Resourcefulness and tolerance
» A good sense of humour

Did you know:

» that the youngest volunteer in the program is 18 and the oldest is in his 80’s?
» that we sometimes place families overseas?

Jetta McFarlane is on assignment in Swaziland with her parents Kerryn and Brett and her brother Stuart. The family is living at MacCorkindale Orphanage.

Photo > Gabrielle Brabander

AVI’s Volunteer Program operates in the following countries
How to become an AVI volunteer:

1 » Visit our website, phone us or come to an information session to find out more.

2 » We have four recruitment drives per year. Use our website to find and apply for an assignment that suits your skills.

3 » You can also send us a general application form with your CV and we will advise you if we have a suitable assignment available.

4 » Participate in a supportive recruitment process that involves behavioural interviews, reference checks, and a police and medical check.

5 » Participate in a comprehensive briefing with AVI before you depart, and an orientation program when you arrive in country.

The fight against HIV/AIDS

avi volunteers have joined in the fight against HIV/AIDS in many ways and in many countries: youth workers support AIDS orphans and children at risk; pharmacists such as Jason Bower (pictured) distribute anti-retroviral drugs; advocacy officers help design prevention programs; and nurses help with home-based care of people living with AIDS.

Photo > Gabrielle Brabander

Performing for Peace

avi volunteer Danielle Atkins works with the Centre for Performing Arts (CPA), which connects all of Sri Lanka’s different ethnic groups through music, drama and art. Danielle trains CPA staff in project management, administration and research.

Photo > Courtesy Danielle Atkins

“Volunteers such as Danielle are a small part of our work, but without this part we cannot carry on our work. Danielle enriches us.”

– Fr Saveri, founder of the Centre for Performing Arts, Sri Lanka

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