

DISTRICT OF MELANESIA POSITION PAPER



SOLOMON ISLANDS

78% POPULATION LIVING
IN RURAL AREAS*



VANUATU

56% POPULATION
BELOW THE AGE OF 24*



BOUGAINVILLE

2019 DATE OF INDEPENDENCE
REFERENDUM

Strategic Directions

Australian Marist Solidarity prioritizes education, both traditional schooling and skills training, across the countries in the Melanesian region. Our approach is highly adaptable to the local situation as we seek to equip young people with the most appropriate education that will enable them to support themselves and their families into the future. Education is seen not only as critical to children but also to young adults who were never engaged in childhood learning due to poverty, rural disadvantage or civil unrest.

Commitment

Australian Marist Solidarity is partnered now and into the future with the following education institutes across the region:

- St Joseph's Secondary School, Tenaru, Solomon Islands
- St Dominic's Rural Training Centre, Vanga Point, Solomon Islands
- St Michel's Rural Training Centre, Santo, Vanuatu
- St Joseph's School, Mabiri, Bougainville

Program Highlights

- 522 students benefited from an array of small projects at St Joseph's Secondary School, Tenaru
- Emergency relief was provided to six schools across Vanuatu in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015
- 160 students at St Dominic's Rural Training Centre, and 354 students at St Joseph's School, now have access to clean and hygienic bathroom facilities

Our Vision

The Melanesian region faces significant challenges moving forward including high rates of rural living and disadvantage, young population structures and looming political decisions. Australian Marist Solidarity is committed to strengthening our partners' capacities in the face of these challenges and contributing further to national and regional development. We will remain responsive to natural disasters and changing landscapes as our partners seek to expand their educational presence, in particular in Tenaru where school buildings are under constant threat of seasonal flooding.