

Australian Marist Solidarity COVID19 Response



The last few months have presented an unprecedented and rapidly developing challenge for all of us. At a time like this, our Marist values of presence and family spirit are needed more than ever, reaching out to our loved ones and neighbours with generosity, kindness and compassion. We know that many of our Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS) friends will be faced with challenges in the weeks and months ahead and we hope that you are able to remain healthy and safe, supported by your loved ones and connected to your community.



In these times of uncertainty, the work of AMS is more important than ever. Communities who are already marginalised and vulnerable will face challenges for their very survival. We know that the communities that we work with in this region are already at a disadvantage with limited access to even the most basic hygiene facilities and health care services.

At AMS, we continue standing in solidarity with these communities and working hard to ensure that they have our support throughout the months ahead and into the years of recovery that will follow. We are in this for the long haul.



Currently we continue to pay the salaries of staff in our partner organisations, knowing that doing so reduces the vulnerability of their wider communities. We are being flexible with the funds we provide to projects, knowing that the needs have changed drastically in many places. For example a number of our projects are utilising AMS funds to provide food for the most vulnerable families they support. We encourage our partners to continue their services and connections with vulnerable young people wherever it is safe to do so and have seen fantastic innovative responses – learning materials shared via WhatsApp, family members trained in basic physical therapy, regular social connection and support shared with individuals who are experiencing extreme isolation.

We will continue to share updates from our partners with you regularly via our social media accounts, Solidarity Matters newsletters, and occasionally via email. We will share the good news from our projects, knowing that we need these stories of hope now more than ever and that the strength and resilience of our partners is a source of deep inspiration. We will also share updates of the challenges being faced in these communities, walking with our partners through this difficult time. We invite you to share our stories of hope and hardship through your own networks and communities and stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable and marginalised as they face the challenges of this time.



Our commitment to our mission remains steadfast and we look forward to working with you to ensure that the most marginalised and vulnerable young people in our region are kept at the centre of our thoughts and actions as our world faces this unprecedented challenge.



Rebecca Bromhead
CEO

