



2021 Annual Report



“So great is the strength we possess in our unity.”

St Mary MacKillop

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AMS proudly acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and water on which we rely. We pay respects to Indigenous leaders, past, present and future.

We also acknowledge and pay our respects to the First Nations people of the countries in which we work.





About us

Australian Marist Solidarity is the international aid and development agency of the Marist family of Australia.

We work to ensure that young people in Asia and the Pacific have access to educational opportunities.

AMS has developed from a long history of aid and development activities by the Marist Brothers Province of Australia and their network of schools. The Brothers started financially supporting and managing overseas aid and development programs in the Solomon Islands in 1938.

In 2021, we worked in 18 countries and delivered more than \$2.2 million to support 42 programs. We believe local people are the experts on the challenges facing their communities.

By working directly with these community partners, we help them access the skills and resources necessary to develop quality education and leadership wherever they need it the most.

We do this by working in the Marist way: practising simplicity, offering genuine presence, promoting a family spirit, modelling love of work and following in the way of Mary.

We build solidarity, hope and dignity.

Vision

Our vision is of a world that reflects Marists' desire that vulnerable young people are brought towards the centre from the margins through access to education.

Mission

Our mission is to empower young people by enhancing their human dignity and developing their capacity to transform their lives and communities.

“...it was also a year of many gains...”

From the Chairperson

“We have realised that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other.” – Pope Francis

Pope Francis said these words in a homily in March 2020. We didn’t realise at that time how long the pandemic would endure, and how much these sentiments would be needed even more as we entered year two of the pandemic in 2021.

While the widespread release of vaccines brought hope and saved many lives, our projects were more affected this year than the previous one.

Many of our projects were in complete shutdown for most of the year, suspending in-person services. Schools were closed from February, only reopening in November. Towns were cut off as they entered lockdown. Students living in project accommodation went most of the year without seeing their families.

Despite this, it was also a year of many gains. As Pope Francis outlined: we have been called to row together – and we have.

Where possible, our project deliveries have moved online. Our students achieved astonishing academic results. Teachers went into the community to visit students in their homes. Our projects adapted services to be able to provide basic and life-saving nutrition to families who had lost their incomes.

Like our partners, we considered new ways of doing things. We initiated a new fundraising strategy that has already yielded some wonderful results. Our loyal supporters again stepped up to provide vital funds that will change the lives of many people.

We also commenced our strategic planning process, which is well underway and sets the scene for an exciting future for AMS.

It has been a privilege to be part of this, and I thank you all very much.



Peter Sheehan

Chair AMS Board of Directors
Appointed 2013
Partner at BDO

Peter is Partner for BDO’s Advisory team in Brisbane, as well as Partner for the firm’s national Government Sector Team.



From the CEO

We knew that 2021 was going to be another challenging year. So, after what we went through with the pandemic in 2020, we felt more prepared.

Still, it was sobering to see the extent of the effects of the pandemic throughout the year, and how the many restrictions and lockdowns would impinge on our planned services.

As Board Chair Peter Sheehan outlines, restrictions and lockdowns throughout most of our project countries meant many changes were made to our services and deliverables.

Changes were also experienced in the AMS team. We monitored relationships with partners and funders via WhatsApp, Zoom and phone calls. In-country visits were again impossible; gatherings went online; and working from home became the norm for a while.

There were additions to the organisation, as we farewelled valued team members and welcomed new ones. I also celebrated an addition to my

family, with the arrival of baby Xavier. During my six months of parental leave, our Business Manager Deirdre moved to acting CEO.

And – we also achieved.

We worked in 18 countries and delivered more than \$2.2million to 42 projects, with 10,250 direct beneficiaries.

We couldn't have done this without our inspiring project partners. It is such a privilege to work alongside them and to support them in their work to nurture local young people to reach their brightest potential. We learn a lot from these incredible relationships and communities.

Thank you to all of our AMS friends: our school networks who continue to show such interest in the work of AMS and raise funds for our projects, and our donors for their generous support even in the midst of a global pandemic.

We are truly blessed with our dedicated community, and look forward to working with you as together, we bring hope.



Rebecca Bromhead

Appointed 2019

Rebecca has extensive experience in international and community development and is an active member of the global Marist family.



Deirdre Looney

Acting CEO June to December 2021

Deirdre has professional qualifications in accounting and a background in financial and operational management.

“...build a better and stronger society through the education of children and young people.”

From a project partner

Dear Brothers, Benefactors,
Sisters & Friends,

*“If you want to reach real peace
in this world, we should start with
the education of children.”*

– Mahatma Gandhi

Greetings from Chetana Tribal Boys' Hostel. On behalf of the Brothers, staff and students at Talit, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the AMS staff, benefactors and well-wishers for your support and partnership with us.

During the pandemic the entire world was experiencing despair and uncertainty while the life and education of millions of children was at stake. The opportunity for online learning was very much limited or was out of reach for those living in rural areas.

Besides, most of the families had very little income to sustain their families.

In such circumstances, the invaluable support of Australian Marist Solidarity for Chetana came as a blessing and a

light shining brightly amid the darkness of the pandemic.

We were able to reach out to our children and their families and express our solidarity with them through our presence and necessary assistance.

We could ensure the education of our children with the help of our staff who were courageous and creative in their efforts and generous with their time.

AMS has been supporting our projects for many years and the partnership has been very much rewarding and consistent. We would like to walk with the same spirit for the coming years as we together try to build a better and stronger society through the education of children and young people.

The activities of the project show that the objectives are being achieved and there has been a substantial development and transformation in the lives of children we have been serving at Talit.

Once again a million thanks to AMS for your timely and invaluable support and contributions to the growth of rural children.



Rev. Br Jiji Dhasan FMS

Br Jiji is the Director of the Chetana Tribal Boys' Hostel Talit, in West Bengal, India



Our strategic objectives

2021 was a year of strategic planning towards developing the objectives and goals to best equip us in our 2022-24 operational cycle. This meant it was the final year of working to meet our current strategic objectives, as follows:

1. Sustainable income and fund searching

To build a sustainable and diversified income stream through funding partnerships and focused strategic fundraising.

2. Projects impact

To develop the organisation and its partners' capacity to implement programs and to measure and report on their long-term engagement with local communities.

3. Community profile and reputation of AMS

To enhance the reputation of AMS as a Marist international development agency.

4. Effective operations

To increase agility, effectiveness and efficiency of AMS operations in Australia and abroad.

How we work

We believe local people are the experts on the challenges facing their communities. By working directly with community partners, we help them access the skills and resources required to develop quality education and leadership where they need it the most.

To help us focus our efforts to ensure their young people reach their brightest potential, our community partners develop projects around three key work areas.

Access to education

We assist access to quality education for vulnerable children and young people through projects in primary, secondary, vocational and tertiary education programs across Asia and the Pacific.

In 2021, we supported 16 projects in 10 countries that directly benefited 5032 people.

Facilities for the future

We invest in infrastructure to ensure safe places for learning.

In 2021, we supported 17 projects in 8 countries that directly benefited 3921 people.

Resilience and readiness

We support programs to build resilience, provide care, and empower marginalised communities to strengthen access to education and workplace-specific skills and knowledge.

In 2021, we supported 9 projects in 6 countries that directly benefited 1297 people.

“We believe local people are the experts on the challenges facing their communities.”

Where we work



Africa
Cameroon
Tanzania
Republic of South Africa



Asia
India
Sri Lanka
Bangladesh
Myanmar
Thailand
Cambodia
Vietnam
Philippines
Timor-Leste

Pacific
Bougainville
Solomon Islands
Kiribati
Vanuatu
Fiji
Samoa

“...supporting young people to prepare them for a bright future...”

Year in review

January

- After facing many pandemic challenges in 2020, the Chetana Tribal Boys' Hostel in INDIA, was able to officially reopen in January. The hostel welcomed back boys who are undertaking high school studies this year.

February



- Dr Sothun Nop began his term as the Executive Director of Marist Solidarity CAMBODIA, taking over the position from Brother Tony Burrows, who will continue at MSC as the Assistant to the Director for Finance and Donor Relations. A COVID-19 resurgence meant schools including LaValla went into lockdown and began teaching online. LaValla staff also began food support services to families where possible.

April



- Building materials for six new classrooms at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs arrived in Wainoni Bay, SOLOMON ISLANDS. This is a project we support in partnership with Catholic Mission.
- Farewelled a long-serving team member Sister Kate who finished her time at one of our PHILIPPINES projects – Kuya

Centre for Street Children.

This facility supports vulnerable children in the PHILIPPINES to transition from the streets into a secure home and to engage with education.

May



- Phase two building works started at the St Louis High School in KIRIBATI which saw the construction of new senior school toilet blocks. This project was made possible through donations raised during our 2020 Schools Campaign.

June



- Our team at the Instituto Catholico Para Formacao de Professores in TIMOR-LESTE launched a research book produced by 11 of their staff. The publication provides results of research on teaching and learning and will be a reference for students and teachers in their local schools.
- Blue Dragon Children's Foundation helps young people and families in VIETNAM survive human trafficking and build new lives. Throughout the year AMS and Lenity Australia support enabled eight teenagers and young women to start vocational training; eight more attended school and two young women found new jobs.

July



- Rural children at the Centu Tinamentu Uai-Lili enjoyed new computers our staff were able to buy in Dili, TIMOR-LESTE after COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and allowed for travel. This project helps young people gain access to valuable computer skills, support and a pathway to further study and employment.
- Held a seminar in INDIA with our project partners Operation Rainbow, to talk about healthy medicines, natural food habits and tips for keeping bodies healthy. This project provides support, love and care to families and children affected by HIV in Tamil Nadu, INDIA.
- Kuya Centre for Street Children in Manila, PHILIPPINES celebrated their students' success and recognised the hard work the children had shown despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic.

August

- New students at St Marcellin School, BANGLADESH, gained confidence with their remote learning following an inspiring visit from Brothers, Sisters and educators.



- Year 10 students at the Chetana Tribal Boys Hostel in



INDIA, received great results in their final exams. All nine boys received grades of A and above! This AMS project aims to support these young people to prepare them for a brighter future life.



- Our AMS Inclusive Education Program supported locally by Katilosa in TIMOR-LESTE saw participants back at the centre after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.
- Our BRISBANE staff took part in a formation day at Ngutana-Lui Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Studies. We learnt about reconciliation through developing cultural understanding and respect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



- The students at Balay Banaag, the PHILIPPINES, achieved excellent results and will move up to the next level. One outstanding high school graduate, Regine, is now continuing on to a college degree in Computer Engineering.

September

- Participants and staff involved in the Katilosa Program in TIMOR-LESTE gained better transport access to the program with AMS support of construction

work to widen the road to Katilosa's facility. This local program works to improve the lives of children and youth with disabilities.



- St Marcellin School staff in BANGLADESH visited students at their homes to help them gain confidence with remote learning.

October



- Progress on the building of Hantoa Primary School's new classroom in Bougainville, PAPUA NEW GUINEA continued to progress. This school is one of many facilities AMS supports to create educational opportunities in our region.

November

- Building works were completed on the technical workshops and Year 9 classrooms at St Michel's College, VANUATU. Materials also arrived for the teachers' staffroom. These facilities were destroyed during Cyclone Harold in 2020.
- Preparations were well underway for St John's School in the SOLOMON ISLANDS to expand to offer form 6 (year 12) from 2022. This involved building new staff houses – and thanks to generous support from some of the school's

former students, donations exceeded expectations and three houses were built.



December

- More work was completed in the rebuild of St Michel's College in VANUATU following a cyclone in 2020. The year 9 classrooms, technical workshop and toilet blocks were finished, with the next part of reconstruction – building the teachers' staffroom now underway.



- Anondo Neer in BANGLADESH laid the groundwork for a new project to begin in 2022 – candlemaking. The candle-making initiative will teach local families living in poverty how to make and sell candles to generate income.

“In March we held our first-ever teacher briefing...”

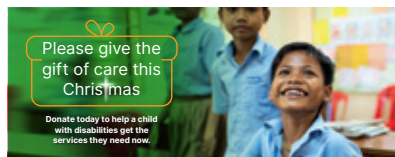
Connection

Throughout 2021 we engaged with our supporters via diverse communication methods and tactics to tell the story of AMS people, projects, and impacts. Some of the ways we achieved this:

Appeals



In May we launched our Mid-Year Appeal 'Let Children Learn' which raised an incredible \$105,000 to help our project partners extend the senior high school in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.



In November, we launched our Christmas Appeal 'Give the gift of care' which raised \$31,000 to help children living with disabilities in our nearest neighbouring countries in Asia and the Pacific.

School materials



In January we launched our 2021 Schools Campaign 'Fratelli Tutti: the Spirit of Solidarity', to contribute to education in Timor-Leste. This included a

suite of educational and spiritual resources for secondary and primary teachers and students.

In-person talks and presentations at schools and other supporter communities



In April Board member Br Paul Kane attended an assembly at St Joseph's College to collect a donation from the school community.

In May we held AMS Community Gatherings in Sydney and Adelaide to provide updates to supporters about our projects across the Pacific and Asia regions.

Online events

In November we held an online event to thank our supporters for their generosity.



Teacher briefings



In March we held our first-ever AMS Teacher Briefing to share our vision for the 2021 School Campaign and released our Primary School Activities Kit online.

Student briefings

The Marist Youth Ministry in partnership with AMS held the Queensland/Northern Territory Marist Student Leadership Summit in Brisbane.



Publications

We produced quarterly issues of Solidarity Matters that we distributed to our communities.

We contributed to Marist publications such as MSA News, Christlife, and school and alumni newsletters regularly.



Website materials

Our website contained timely and informative materials about our projects as well as letting people know how to donate to support these.



Social media

We maintained a consistent presence across social media channels including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.



COVID-19 effects

This year the pandemic impacted our projects more than in 2020. Countries with limited health infrastructure struggled to respond to rising illness rates. Those countries that managed to avoid it, did so through long periods of lockdown and restriction.



Most in-person services moved to online where possible, with many schools closed for much of the year.

Building projects were also affected due to a significant rise in the cost of construction materials and logistical delays.



Project focuses expanded where possible too, to accommodate developing needs. AMS arranged funding for the Talit Family Nutrition project in India that ensured 100 families received support to meet basic nutritional needs during the pandemic. Other projects such as LaValla in Cambodia also responded to these community needs by providing nutrition and home sanitation support.

Towards the end of the year, many countries started reopening and were able to offer in-person teaching again.

To prepare their students after such a long absence, teachers at Anondo Neer, Bangladesh planned a Christmas party as a helpful way to bring students back after many months away from school and to ease their anxiety.

“We worked in 18 countries and supported 42 projects that directly benefited 10,250...”

Where we worked in 2021

Bangladesh – 3 projects

- Anondo Neer: running costs for school for children living with disabilities
- Anondo Neer candle-making: vocational training for students' families
- St Marcellin School: for children of tea garden workers

Bougainville – 2 projects

- St Joseph's College Mabiri: construction of a building to expand into senior secondary school
- St Raphael Elementary School: construction of classrooms
- Hantoa Primary School: construction of a 4-1 classroom block

Cambodia – 3 projects

- Pailin Hostel: accommodation for male students
- Pailin Girls' Hostel: accommodation for female students
- LaValla – primary school for children living with disabilities – see story page 16

Cameroon – 1 project

- Marist Fathers Poultry Farm: income generation to support community

Fiji – 1 project

- St John's College, Cawaci: rebuilding the girl's dormitory

India – 2 projects

- Operation Rainbow: HIV/AIDS support program for local families

- Chetana Migrant Boys Hostel: program costs for school and accommodation – see story page 19

Kiribati – 1 project

- St Louis High School: construction of bathrooms and administration buildings

Myanmar – 1 project

- Anti-Human Trafficking Sewing Project: sewing initiative for income generation



Philippines – 4 projects

- Kuya Centre: support for street children
- Balay Pasilungan: shelter for homeless and abused children
- Women's Ecological Sanctuary: protection and rehabilitation of abused women
- Balay Banaag: education and accommodation for children of women in prostitution

South Africa – 1 project

- Bosele House: hostel for disadvantaged children to attend school

Samoa – 1 project

- Chanel College: co-educational high school

Solomon Islands – 5 projects

- San Isidro Training Centre Kitchen: construction of a kitchen block
- St Dominic's Rural Training Centre: vocational training for male students
- DIVIT Women's Refuge Building: shelter for women and children affected by violence
- Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Secondary School – construction of classroom building – see story page 18
- St Martin's Rural Training Centre: vocational training for male and female students

Sri Lanka – 1 project

- St Joseph's College: high school for male students

Thailand – 1 project

- Marist Asia Foundation: education programs for the Burmese migrant children





Timor-Leste – 11 projects

- Education Support Timor: supporting primary school education
- ICFP Bursary: annual grant for teacher training studies at ICFP
- KATILOSA Operating costs: running expenses for centre supporting people living with disabilities
- KATILOSA vehicle: purchase of a new van for student transportation
- KATILOSA Inclusive Education Pilot: one-year pilot
- Ponta Leste: ongoing costs for centre that runs after school classes and training



- Marist Foundation Timor-Leste: support for education in Timor-Leste
- ICFP program – scholarships for teacher training studies at ICFP – see story page 21
- CTUF Uai Lili: computer training program for young people
- St Teresinha Primary School Quelicai: rebuilding the school

Tanzania – 1 project

- Buhangija Secondary School: support for school expenses

Vanuatu – 1 project

- St Michel Technical College – reconstruction and recovery work following damage of TC Harold Recovery



Vietnam – 2 projects

- Training & Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind: massage training for visually impaired people to become self employed
- Blue Dragon: anti-child and women trafficking



“All the teachers at LaValla are people with disabilities...”

CASE STUDIES

LaValla Project, Cambodia

We continued our ongoing support for the LaValla Project, a work of Marist Solidarity Cambodia (MSC) that provides education and health programs for children and young people with disabilities.

In 2021, there were several streams of work at LaValla. The school is a government-registered primary boarding school that caters for children and young people with physical disabilities. As well as offering the normal curriculum subjects, LaValla students also study computing, English, music, sewing and physical education. Each year the Grade 6 students sit for the national end-of-primary-school examinations, which allows them to enrol in secondary School.

All the teachers at LaValla are people with disabilities and therefore wonderful role models for the students. Most students come from very poor families who live in rural areas of Cambodia. Many, because of their disability or distance, have never been able to get to their local schools. Others who did start school, could not continue as they experienced discrimination because of their disability.

When students come to LaValla, they find everyone has a disability, so this is no longer an issue. They can develop their abilities and grow in self-confidence. LaValla also offers

students a comprehensive health and rehabilitation service that they would never be able to have at home.

When students complete Grade 6, they have several options: to return home and attend their local high school; reside at LaValla Village and attend high school; or undertake vocational skills training in preparation for employment. However, 2021 was not a usual year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with all schools in Cambodia, LaValla School closed at the end of February and only reopened in November.

During the school closure, teachers came to school each day to remain in contact with their students and provide on-line classes in the core subjects. To facilitate this, MSC provided mobile phones to all students who had no access to a phone or internet.

Despite these challenges, in 2021 LaValla enrolled 76 students in its primary school; and assisted 22 students living at home to attend their local primary school. It also assisted 89 students to attend secondary school – of these, 63 students lived at the LaValla Village Hostel and attended the local government secondary school; and 26 lived at home and attended their local schools.

LaValla also initiated a family support program to respond to COVID-related financial difficulties. Many families lost employment as factories or other

work sites closed. During the year, the project assisted about 100 families with food support, assistance to seek medical attention and providing access to fresh water and sanitation.

Student story

Samnang is 22 years old and grateful that she has been able to gain an education through LaValla.

She has nine siblings and comes from a poor rural farming family. Samnang was born with a full right arm, a half left arm and two half legs, but she can walk and requires no assistive devices for her movement. She left school in Grade 3 after facing discrimination and accessibility problems. Fortunately, she was selected and enrolled at LaValla School to recommence her studies in 2015.

Samnang is now studying in Grade 10 at Hun Sen Takhmao High School. She receives all the support she needs for her living and study from LaValla, and has also received extra classes in mathematics, English and computing. She intends to continue to university so she can become an accountant.



We are the
SOLIDARITY
EFFECT



“Despite the many challenges of COVID in 2021, the project was able to still achieve its full objectives...”

CASE STUDIES

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Secondary School,

Solomon Islands

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs School is located at Wainoni Bay on Makira. The island is home to about 40,000 people. It is not one of the main islands and is therefore largely rural and undeveloped. There is only a road running along the north coast of the island, and inland is only accessible by boat or on foot. There is no internet, phone or electricity in the Wainoni Bay area.

OLQM is the only Catholic secondary school on Makira. It began in 2018 and is adding one grade per year. They currently have about 200 students in forms 1, 2 and 3.

Over the past several years AMS has supported ongoing upgrades for the school. In 2021, this involved the commencement of construction of a classroom building with six new classrooms.

The school currently only has three classrooms, so classes are held outside in the open, or combined into one big class of 60-70 students.

Construction was expected to take 12 months, with most building materials needing to be

shipped in from Honiara. Despite initial delays due to the arrival of materials, the increased cost of supplies and hurricane season, the project overall progressed well.

However, in November following anti-government riots, the Solomon Islands continued to experience unrest and disruptions with the supply chain. Progress was slower than expected at the end of the year, but it was still anticipated the project would finish as planned in February 2022.

Unfortunately, COVID outbreaks in the Solomon Islands then caused the country to go into lockdown. Schools were closed for an indefinite period, and building work also stopped.

AMS remains confident in the ability of the project manager to complete the construction once the COVID situation has stabilised and shipments to the island restart.

Student story

Felicity is a 15-year-old student who boards at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs School.

She's in form 3, the equivalent of year 10 in Australia. Felicity's favourite thing about school is "learning" – she enjoys all her classes, particularly social studies.

Felicity is determined to improve her English skills as she feels communicating with other cultures is very important.

Her dream job is to be a tour guide, and she would love to travel to Australia as part of that.





CASE STUDIES

Chetana Boys' Hostel, India

The Chetana Tribal Boys' Hostel provides accommodation and educational support for boys and young men from the Santali tribal group.

While staying at the hostel, students attend one of two nearby schools. Without the support of the hostel, these boys and young men would not be able to attend school due to the distance and the expense of travel.

The Santali tribal group are part of the 'lowest caste' in India. As such, employment and educational opportunities are very limited. Most Santali tribal families live off minimal wages and in traditional huts or temporary shed structures. This home environment is not conducive to study and young people are often encouraged to find work to contribute to their family.

Most students' parents did not attend school, so the children are often the first in their family to receive a formal education. The boys and young men are identified by parish priests and other religious members within the diocese as being the most in need. However, acceptance is not based on religion with half the students being from non-Christian families.

In 2021, the hostel had 68 students enrolled, aged between

9 and 17 and attending school in Grades 5 to 11. The hostel includes student accommodation and facilities such as a dining room, kitchen, and gardens.

The boys attend classes after school to complement their school lessons, and students having difficulty with their schoolwork are also able to receive academic support. As well as accommodation and educational support, the hostel provides simple and nutritious food to the boys and basic medical needs. A range of recreational activities are offered, as is pastoral support.

Like many other project countries, COVID impacts made schooling extremely difficult in India in 2021. Schools were completely shut due to restrictions, so the entirety of the Chetana students' learning has come from the onsite tutors at the hostel. The boys were also separated from their families as visits were not permitted under restrictions.

Despite the many challenges of COVID in 2021, the project was able to still achieve its full objectives.

In fact, their Year 10 students achieved wonderful final exam results. All nine boys received grades of A and above.

Student story

Basant is a 16-year-old student at Chetana. He has lived at the hostel for five years.

Basant is in class 12 at school and is preparing for his HSC exam. His favourite subject is English, and he would like to be a teacher when he finishes school.

Basant comes from a village two hours away from Chetana. He is an only child, and doesn't have a father.

Because of this, he said he loves the care the Brothers have for the students, and the structure and discipline of the hostel.

Basant enjoys the extracurricular activities on offer at Chetana, especially the English lessons and learning to cook. He also loves playing chess and football.



“...the college empowers its students to become leaders in the field of primary education and leaders within their own local community...”

CASE STUDIES

ICFP Program, Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste is one of the least developed countries in the world and the poorest in Asia. During the 1999 post-referendum violence, as much as 70% of the national infrastructure was destroyed, including the destruction of 80% of schools and the burning of almost all books and materials, while almost 20% of primary teachers and 90% of secondary teachers returned to Indonesia. With 42% of the country's population below the age of 14 and the majority of Timorese teachers poorly educated and untrained, the current school system faces enormous challenges.

ICFP (Instituto Catolico Para Formacao De Professores) is a Marist-run Catholic Teachers College that offers an accredited Bachelor of Teaching and is the only tertiary institution outside of the area of the capital Dili. It is also one of only two providers of primary education teacher training in the country. The educational infrastructure in Timor-Leste is still weak, but ICFP's goal is to strengthen the Catholic School system and provide the country with fully qualified teachers.

The college empowers its students to become leaders in the field of primary education and leaders within their own local

community as well. Trained in critical thinking, pedagogy and child development, the students are readily offered employment upon graduation.

In 2021, the final batch of 76 new enrolments were accepted in January, bringing a total of 221 students in the Bachelor of Teaching program. There were also 76 students in the Bachelor of Education program. These students were teaching in schools throughout Timor-Leste – most of which closed on 15 March 2021, due to the pandemic. The program was modified somewhat due to COVID-19 restrictions, and the students settled in quickly.

During the lockdown period, lecturers taught their students through the WhatsApp program. The final seven weeks of the first semester were taught using this process.

Inclusive education is a focus at the Institute and ICFP is in partnership with Katilosa, another AMS project that promotes the education of children who have a wide range of learning challenges. ICFP assisted Katilosa with a grant application that resulted in the employment of two ICFP graduates for this year.

Due to the closure of schools, ICFP students undertook their teaching practice in the local communities. They taught small groups of students each day in family homes, community centres

and in outside settings. Part of their lessons were taped and sent, along with their lesson plans, to their supervisors at ICFP. In addition, the team celebrated the publication of a research book by 11 staff.

Written in Tetum, it provides results of research on teaching and learning, and will be a reference for students and teachers in Timor-Leste schools.



Student story

Tomás dos Santos Moreira comes from Malia, a small village in the Baucau Municipality in Timor-Leste. He is the third sibling in his family to study at ICFP and enrolled as an English teacher.

During his three years of study, Tomás did not find learning English easy but by the end of his studies in 2021 he not only gained his Bachelor of Teaching degree but had a distinction average and was ready to continue to begin an extra year of study to obtain a Bachelor of Education degree.

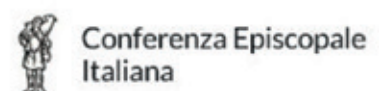
As part of his studies, he had to return home to do an internship of three months. It was while teaching here that he noticed young children in his village were very shy, did not want to go to school, and often cried when they had to go to class. He and another sister, Sara, decided that they wanted to open a community pre-school for 4 and 5 year-olds, to help them get ready for primary school. They have worked with the local community to find a safe place for the children, and already have more than 40 attending each week. They provide very basic materials – paper, coloured pencils, and water for the children to drink.

He and Sara and two other volunteers don't receive a salary, but are happy because the children want to come to class each week.



“We build solidarity, hope and dignity.”

Thank you to our principal partners





Thank you to the groups who supported our projects in 2021

ACT

Marist College Canberra
Merici College

NSW

John Therry Catholic High School
Marcellin College Randwick
Marist College Kogarah
Mount Carmel Catholic College
Parramatta Marist High School
Red Bend Catholic College
St Francis Xavier's College
St Gregory's College
St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill
St Patrick's Marist College Dundas
Trinity Catholic College, Auburn /
Regents Park
Trinity Catholic College, Lismore

QLD

Marist College Ashgrove
Marist College Emerald
Mt Maria College, Mitchelton
Mt Maria College, Petrie
St Augustine's College
St Teresa's Catholic College
Trinity College, Beenleigh

SA

St Aquinas College
Cardijn College
Sacred Heart College
Tenison Woods College

VIC

Assumption College, Kilmore
Catholic College, Sale
Galen Catholic College
Marcellin College, Bulleen
Marist-Sion College
Marymede Catholic College
Sacred Heart College Geelong

WA

Bunbury Catholic College
Newman College

Timor-Leste friendship groups

Bairnsdale Friends of East Timor
Bega Valley Advocates of East
Timor
Friends of Aileu
Friends of Baucau
Friends of Suai / Covalima,
City of Port Phillip
Geelong Friends of Viqueque
Social Justice Advocates of the
Sapphire Coast Inc
Willoughlay Friends of Ossu

“We remain committed to sending the maximum amount of funding possible directly to our partners and projects...”

Our finances

Despite another year of managing the challenges associated with the global COVID-19 pandemic, the financial year ended with a surplus of \$89,627. This is slightly up from the \$72,714 surplus for 2020. We ran a successful appeal for a project in Bougainville, which resulted in donations of just over \$105,000. We continued to be very prudent with our resources in response to the unpredictable economic impact of COVID-19, but were pleased to resume the acceptance of new project proposals.

AMS has strong equity which means that it can manage the ebbs and flows of funding across financial years when necessary, ensuring that there isn't an impact on project delivery. It's important to understand that our total equity of \$2,972,680, consists of reserve funds of \$658,456 (one major designated donation) and also retained earnings of \$1,717,903 which is designated to specific projects. This leaves a balance of \$596,321 which can be used as needed, to cover unanticipated events and emergencies or for occasional use to invest in program and organisational priorities.

Our income increased slightly by 1.5% in 2021, from \$2.87 million in 2020 to \$2.91 million in 2021, despite the end of the COVID support provided by the government in 2020. While our

donations and gifts dropped slightly from \$1.56 million to \$1.48 million, our grants income increased, most significantly with international grants rising by \$132,455 to \$420,224 in 2021. A drop in the administration fee income of about \$30,000 was matched by an increase in investment income of about the same amount.

Our expenditure increased slightly by \$23,123 which included trialling some new fundraising initiatives and realised capital losses, which are expected to be regained over the life of our investments. There was slightly reduced expenditure on international program funding largely due to project implementation delays related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. These delays may be related to programs on hold due to lockdowns or staff shortages or due to issues with supply chains, particularly in the case of construction at remote sites. Two significant projects that were due to have been completed in 2021 anticipate further work in early 2022.

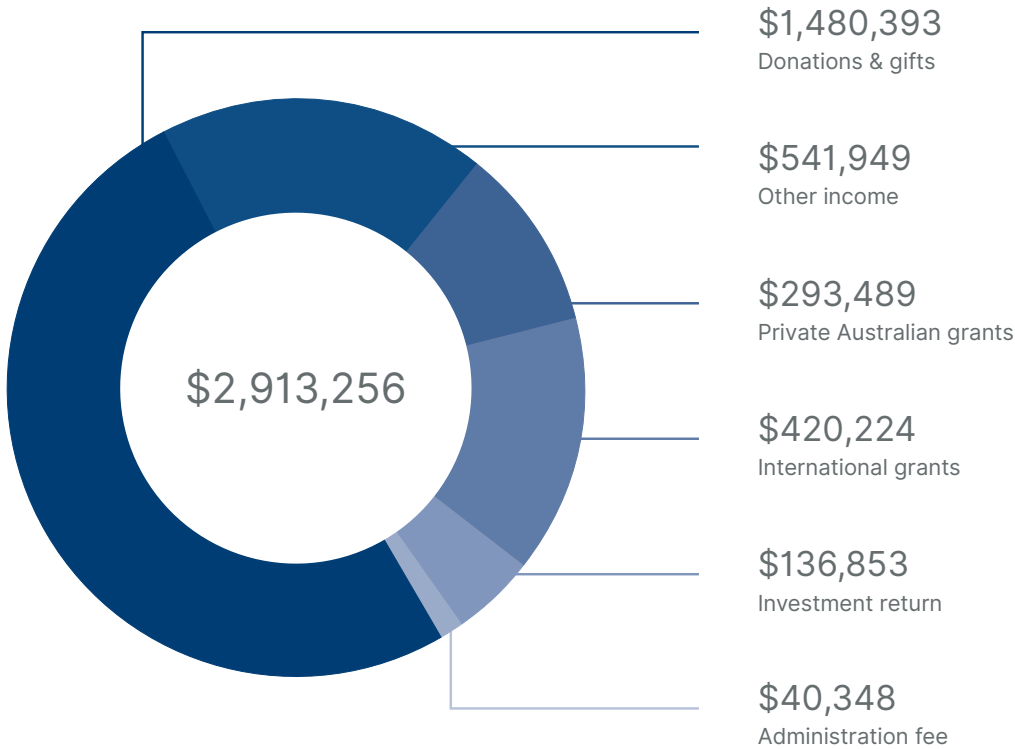
You'll notice that our expenses break down is slightly different to previous reports. In line with common practice, we are now including the categories of governance and community education to give our supporters a stronger picture of our

Australian costs. We spent \$598,625 on our non-program related costs in 2021. This included community education, fundraising, governance, accountability and administration and represents approximately 21% of total expenditure. As anticipated, this was an increase from 2020 and it is expected that these costs will continue a small incremental increase in the coming years as AMS continues to invest in fundraising and core systems for organisational sustainability.

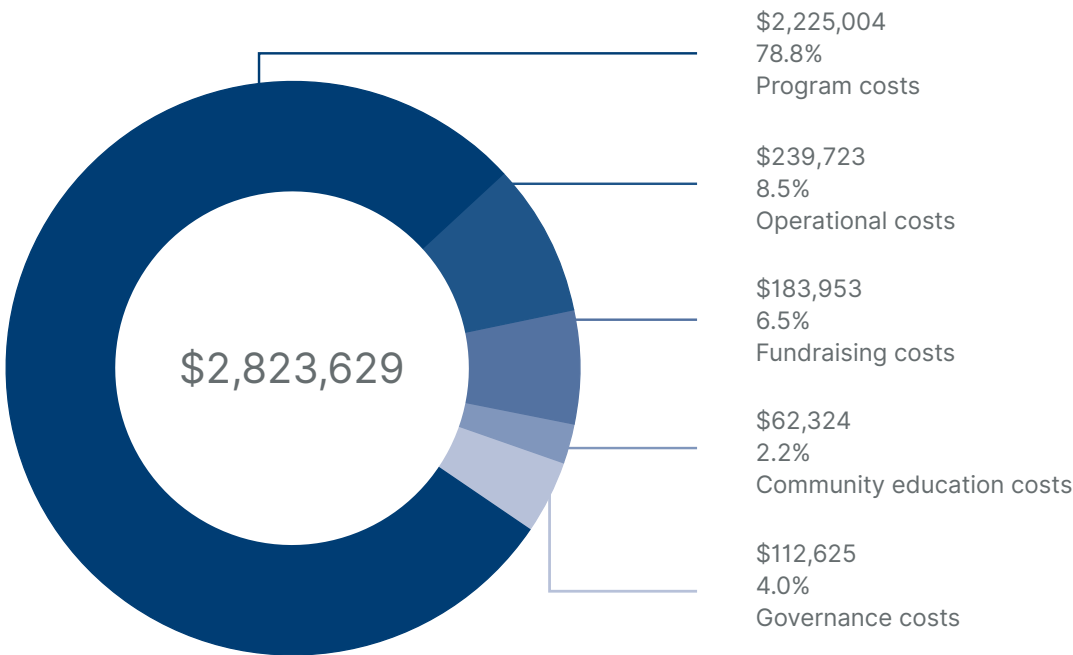
A 21% expenditure on non-program related costs (operational, fundraising, community education and governance) remains below the average for our sector with a strong contribution of 79% supporting our programs and partners. AMS continues to minimise the percentage of donations being used for operational costs by seeking alternative sources of revenue. We remain committed to sending the maximum amount of funding possible directly to our partners and projects for the valuable work being carried out to support young people in our region, while still maintaining strong governance and management practices.



Where our funds came from

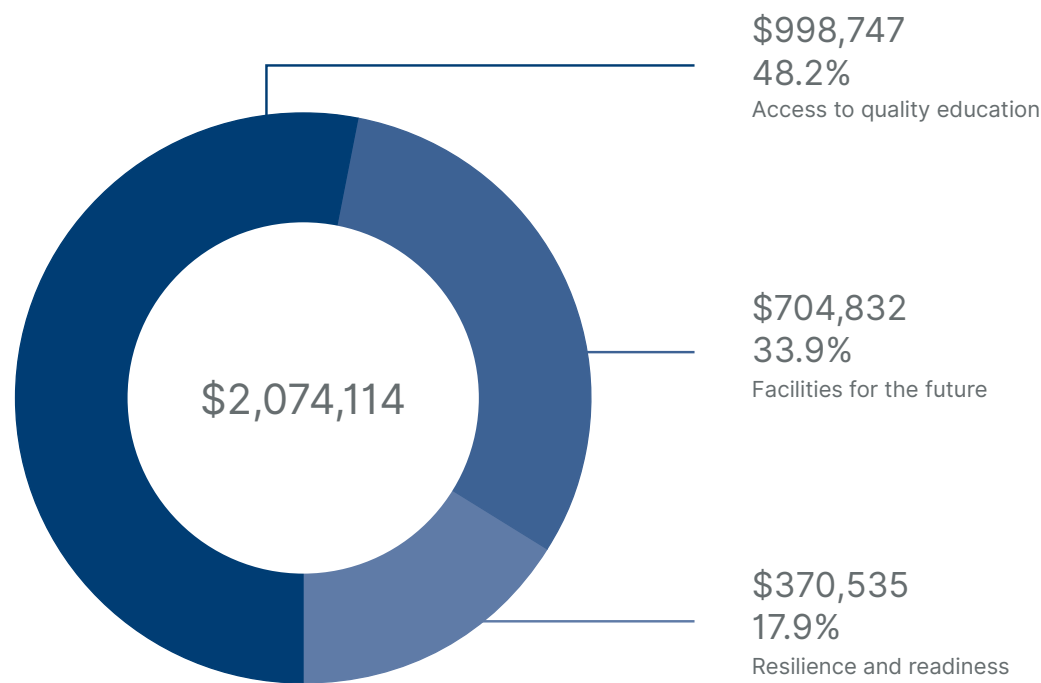


How our funds were spent

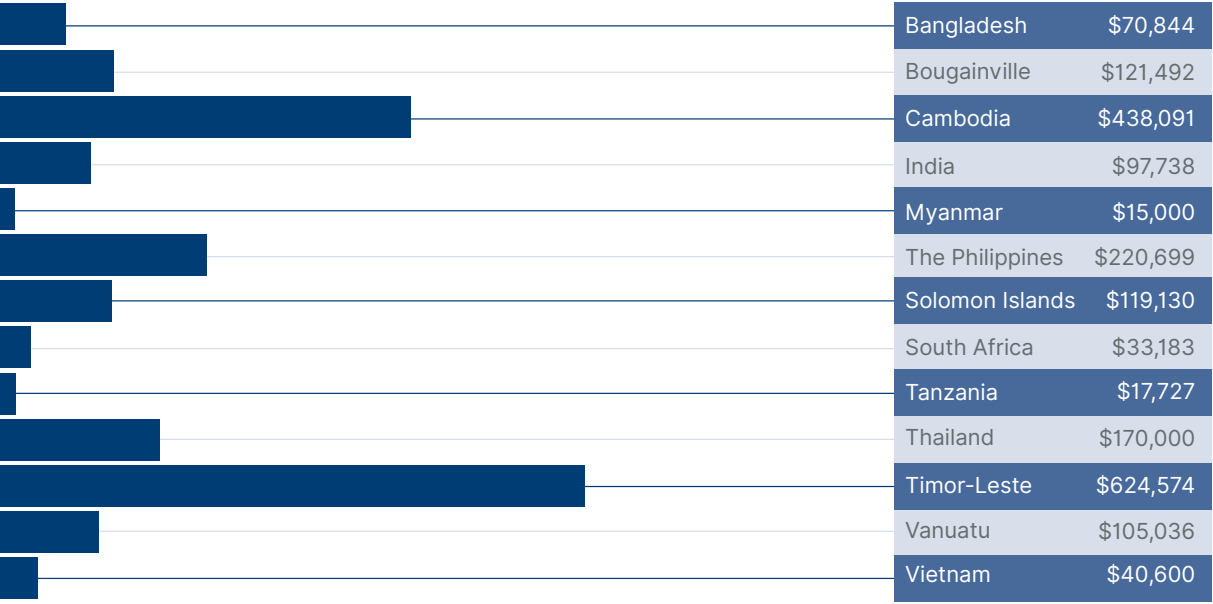




Types of projects our funds supported



Countries our funds were distributed in



Consolidated Statement of Income & Expenditure

for the year ended 31 December 2021 (all figures in Australian Dollars)

Revenue	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Donations & Gifts		
Monetary	1,480,393	1,562,035
Grants Received		
International Aid Agencies	420,224	287,769
Australian Grantors	293,489	288,150
Distributions from financial assets	135,873	103,904
Administration fee	40,348	70,132
Interest received	980	1,650
Foreign currency exchange gain	5,475	—
Other income	536,474	412,088
ATO cashboost stimulus	—	49,992
Jobkeeper	—	97,500
Total Revenue	2,913,256	2,873,220

Expenditure	2021	2020
International Programs		
Funds to support international projects	2,074,114	2,228,434
Program support costs	150,890	114,930
Administration costs	187,873	310,524
Investment management	17,072	14,296
Fundraising costs - public	183,953	130,115
Foreign current exchange deficit	—	230
Realised capital losses	34,778	—
Governance costs	112,625	1,977
Community education costs	62,324	—
Total Expenditure	2,823,629	2,800,506

Surplus / (Deficit) before income tax expense	89,627	72,714
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Period	89,627	72,714

During the financial years 2020 and 2021, AMS had no transactions for international political or religious proselytism programs.



Statement of Financial Position

for the year ended 31 December 2021 (all figures in Australian Dollars)

Assets	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	580,030	659,054
Receivables	157,269	81,910
Financial assets	1,254,367	952,777
Total Current Assets	1,991,666	1,693,741
Non Current Assets		
Financial assets	2,173,760	2,675,939
Plant and equipment	—	—
Total Non Current Assets	2,173,760	2,675,939
Total Assets	4,165,426	4,369,680
Liabilities	2021	2020
Current Liabilities		
Payables	36,612	47,049
Provisions	26,905	11,589
Income received in advance	1,120,133	1,420,000
Total Current Liabilities	1,183,650	1,478,638
Non Current Liabilities		
Provisions	9,096	7,989
Total Non Current Liabilities	9,096	7,989
Total Liabilities	1,192,746	1,486,627
Net Assets	2,972,680	2,883,053
Equity	2021	2020
Reserve funds	658,456	641,937
Retained earnings	2,314,224	2,241,116
Total Equity	2,972,680	2,883,053

The full Financial Report for 2021 is available on the Australian Marist Solidarity website at www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/about-us

Auditor's report

Levert Audit Pty Ltd
ABN 63 616 317 264
Authorised audit company
(No. 458146)

Levert
Audit Services
Strong through people and technology

Director:
Simon Green CA

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY LIMITED**

Opinion
We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Australian Marist Solidarity Limited ("the company") which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2021, the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Directors' Declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 ("the ACNC Act") including:

- giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2013.

Basis for Opinion
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 the audit report.

We are independent of the company in accordance with the ACNC Act and ethical requirements of 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 statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the members. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report
The Directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act, the Australian Council for International Development's Code of Conduct and the needs of the members. The Directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Partners:
17 James Place
SINNAMON PARK QLD 4073

Contact:
audit@levertaudit.com.au
616-060 721 879

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY LIMITED
(continued)**

The Directors are responsible for overseeing the company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility 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 this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls;
- Obtain an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors;
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that we identify during our audit.

Levert Audit
Levert Audit Pty Ltd
Brisbane, 22 April 2022

Simon Green CA
Director

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An independent audit of Australian Marist Solidarity's financial accounts for 2021 was conducted by:

Mr Simon Green, Director
Levert Audit Pty Ltd
17 James Place
Sinnamon Park
QLD 4073

The Financial Summary Reports have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at www.acfid.asn.au

The full Financial Report can be obtained at www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au

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Director:
Simon Green CA

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
TO THE DIRECTORS OF AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY LIMITED**

In relation to our audit of the financial report of Australian Marist Solidarity Limited for the year ended 31 December 2021, we declare that to the best of our knowledge and belief, there have been:

- no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012; and
- no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct.

Levert Audit
Levert Audit Pty Ltd
Brisbane, 22 April 2022

Simon Green CA
Director

Partners:
17 James Place
SINNAMON PARK QLD 4073

Contact:
audit@levertaudit.com.au
616-060 721 879

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ACFID membership

In 2008, Australian Marist Solidarity became a full member and signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct. ACFID is the peak body for Australian international development organisations. ACFID's purpose is to lead and unite its members in action for a just, equitable and sustainable world.



ACFID
MEMBER



Australian Marist Solidarity seeks and appreciates your feedback. If you wish to provide feedback or lodge a complaint against the organisation, please contact Rebecca Bromhead, Chief Executive Officer on (07) 3354 0600 or email ams@marists.org.au. All feedback is confidential.

Australian Marist Solidarity is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity.

AMS is a registered Public Benevolent Institution (PBI), has DGR status with the Australian Tax Office to provide tax deductibility for donors and is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). To ensure that our work is always aligned with best practice in our sector we are also accredited by the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID).

Board of Directors



**Peter Sheehan (Chair)
- Appointed 2013**

Peter is Partner for BDO's Advisory team in Brisbane, as well as Partner for the firm's national Government Sector Team.



**Br Jeffrey Barrington
- Appointed 2019**

Br Jeff is the Northern Region Provincial Councillor and the Provincial's delegate for the Aged Care of the Brothers across Australia.



Norman Chan - Appointed 2020

Norman is a business man and active member of the Fiji Marist Old Boys community. He has previously been a member of the AMS Projects Committee and currently Chairs the AMS Finance & Risk Committee.



Br Paul Kane - Appointed 2017

Br Paul was the Provincial Visitor for Timor-Leste and Cambodia. Br Paul is currently the Province Administrator and is based in Sydney.



Sr Pamela Molony - Appointed 2017

Sr Pamela is a member of the international congregation, Sisters of the Good Shepherd with whom she has held a range of leadership roles.



Susan Slattery - Appointed 2021

Susan is a Learning and Development, Humanitarian and International Development Specialist.



Michael Sinclair - Appointed 2014

Michael is a Canon Lawyer with expertise in church law/governance, executive management as well as government and commercial relationships.



Allison White - Appointed 2019

Allison is a strategic stakeholder and communications specialist motivated to work with organisations committed to creating value for the communities in which they operate.



Jim Whiting - Appointed 2018

Jim founded BADGE Construction in 1983. As Managing Director, Jim has steered the organisation to become one of Australia's largest privately owned commercial construction companies.



**Dr Frank Malloy
Appointed 2017
Retired December 2021**

Dr Frank Malloy is National Director for Marist Schools Australia, with responsibilities associated with a network of 55 schools.



**Marcus Riley
Appointed 2013
Retired March 2021**

Marcus is CEO for BallyCara and is Chairman of the the Global Ageing Network. He is also the Chair of the AMS Community Engagement & Fundraising Committee.

We also recognise the important role and work of our three Board Sub Committees: Finance & Risk, Community Engagement & Fundraising, and Projects. The Board thanks the members of these Committees for the time and expertise that they provide to support the work of AMS.



Ways to help

Together, we can make a difference. Our work is only possible because of our generous donors and supporters. You can help us in whatever way is best for you.

Make a monthly donation

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Call 3354 0600 or donate securely at www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au

Get your school involved

Head to www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/learn on how your school can help.

Keep up-to-date

Sign up to the AMS newsletter www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/sign-up-for-the-latest-news

Leave a gift in your will

If you are able, we encourage you to consider leaving a legacy that will live on.

www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/partnerships/gifts-in-your-will

Workplace giving

One of the most cost effective and simple ways of making a donation.

Head to www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/partnerships/workplace-giving for more.

Get active

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Youtube, and read our updates at

www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/news-2

Thanks to Conor Ashleigh for all the wonderful
images of his that we use.







2021 Annual Report

