



1. Connecting Communities with global development

Mission 1: Advancing awareness in Australia

Palms Australia's mission is to 'Facilitate, and be open to mutual formation and inspiration, with those who share their skills abroad to:

1. Advance the awareness, enthusiasm and involvement of Australian and international communities in shared action to achieve just, sustainable, and peaceful development.
2. Participate in an exchange of knowledge and skills to meet the requests of communities seeking to reduce poverty by developing the capacities of their people and organisations.'

Achieving the first aim of Palms' mission involves those undertaking an assignment sharing their experience with friends, family, and community at home.

This begins before your assignment, with a farewell event to engage your community in your journey and in the needs and aspirations of your host organisation. Your Australian community is further engaged throughout your assignment with updates from the field and hosting events in support of your assignment and host community, such as a Palms Together Day.

Your Australian community

Each of our volunteers has a strong network of supporters, from close friends and family to local community organisations. Your Australian community may be large or small, and Palms staff will assist you to engage this community with issues of development. Engaging these individuals and groups with Palms' development philosophy is one of the most significant ways you can contribute to evolving Australian's enthusiasm for sustainable aid and development.

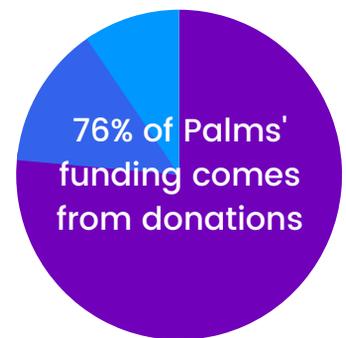


2. Fundraising through team support

Fundraising in your community

A guiding principle of Palms Australia's development philosophy is that local communities are the architects of their own development. Your placement builds skills that allow the communities with which we work to determine their own development goals with respect to their local needs and assets.

Private donations are Palms primary source of funding. We do not ask our program participants to contribute a given amount to their assignment, or to raise a pre-determined amount from their community. All we need is a connection to your community to explain how your mentoring will provide sustainable self-reliance for your host organisation. We find this to be a model that most community groups in Australia appreciate and are happy to support.



Team support

As you prepare all that is required for transitioning to another country it is not the time to contact you about engaging your local community in awareness raising and fundraising activities. You will be asked to nominate up to three individuals who can be a point of contact for Palms in achieving Mission 1.

Think of that special someone who can muster the support of your community and who is comfortable organising fundraising events and activities (with plenty of support from Palms staff). We will talk with your supporters to help us connect your community with your host organisation while you are in the field.



3. Events and Materials for your team

Events and materials

Fundraising doesn't need to be stressful or time-consuming for your team. Simple events such as a BBQ or a morning tea, which you may be hosting prior to your departure anyway, are the perfect occasion for fundraising. Activities can include yard games, trivia or a simple lolly jar guessing game.

We can give you posters, brochures, and videos sharing the experience of your host organisation, the needs they have identified, and the skills to be developed. If given sufficient time, we can arrange for a video message from your future counterpart to your guests. Remember, it is your host organisation, not yourself, that is the ultimate beneficiary of your assignment. Your guests can donate at palms.org.au/donate or in cash. All donations are tax deductible.

Palms Together Day

Palms Together Day is social gathering that invites guests to bring a dish from a culture with which they identify. The event can be a small afternoon tea or a large community BBQ. Guests make a donation to Palms Australia.

Encounters

Encounters are small group tours to visit Palms' development partners in Timor Leste, Samoa, or Myanmar. These immersions are for the adventurous and curious as travellers can witness first hand the work of local community organisations in our region. Your team support can work with Palms staff to arrange an exclusive Encounter for 5-8 members of your community.

You will be supported

Palms staff will assist participants to raise their team support. We can also arrange appointments with community groups and local media.