



# AVI

*inviting change*

**Annual Report**  
**2015-16**



# AVI

*inviting change*

## OUR PRESIDENT

Sam Mostyn

## OUR BOARD

Kathy Townsend (Chair)

Lyma Nguyen

Dean Tillotson

Martine Letts

Wendy Tyrrell

Jennifer Johnston

Jenny McGregor AM

Greg Thompson

Peter Wilkins

## PHOTOS:

### Front cover:

Khine Mar Thin is a member of SHE-Smith, the very first womens silversmith training and workshop in Myanmar run by Akhaya Women. Akhaya Women provide the tools and support mechanisms necessary to challenge gender stereotypes, to bring gender equality into their homes and communities, and to campaign for a safer and more equal environment for women to live in. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono / AVI

### Page 4 and 5:

Daw Khaing Thet Mon, a teacher at Phaung Daw Oo Monastic Education High School in Mandalay, Myanmar teaching a class. This school sits under the umbrella organisation Monastic Education Development Group (MEDG) and supports the monastic school teachers, trained in child-centred methods emphasising development of critical thinking and creativity. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono / AVI



AVI is an Australian not-for-profit organisation committed to achieving social and economic development outcomes across the world.

We support developing communities inviting change, and bring people together who share their skills, culture and experience to achieve locally driven initiatives.

Capacity is developed at an individual, organisation and institutional level in a range of priority areas and lasting relationships between Australians and international peers are formed.

## Our aim is threefold

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- To provide the world-class support and scale needed to drive multi-generational change that significantly improves peoples' lives and creates life-changing experiences.
- To respond to the social and economic aspirations of communities by realising development opportunities through mutual learning and knowledge exchange.
- To enhance cross-cultural understanding and engage Australians to embrace new experiences that will have an ongoing positive impact at home and abroad.

## What we value

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- Locally driven change: We know that better development outcomes result when local communities, governments and organisations identify the challenges and drive the solutions.
- Mutual value: We've been seeing the value flow in every direction for more than 65 years between people, communities, organisations, and with our government and corporate partners.
- High-quality experiences: We want Australians and individuals in every country to report positively about the work that they do, the people they meet and the places they encounter.
- Responsive service provision: We believe the care and support of people as they live and work together in different places is critical to development outcomes.
- Innovative partnerships: AVI's approach seizes opportunities to work collaboratively and achieve outcomes that no one partner could achieve on their own.



## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR - Kathy Townsend



The past 12 months have been both challenging and rewarding for AVI, where we have had the opportunity to demonstrate what we do best. The skills and competencies we look for in volunteers to ensure success are in fact those that underwrite the spirit of AVI – resilience, optimism, pragmatism and innovation.

For 65 years, AVI has been on a continuous journey of evolving and adapting to ensure we remain aligned with the needs of organisations and communities we work with around the world, as well as to the expectations of our partners and funders. Throughout this journey we've held strong to our values of locally driven change, people-to-people development and sharing knowledge and expertise.

Last year saw an organisation restructure and program consolidation, which included a rebrand and formally changing our public name to AVI. Our new logo adopted the tag line 'inviting change' representing our responsiveness to local communities, governments, businesses and civil society organisations who invite Australians to support the changes they believe are needed for social and economic development.

We delivered on all of our commitments, and invested in our people and processes to ensure continuous improvement of assignments and programs. I'm also very proud of AVI's work with disability inclusion, gender equality, and youth and Indigenous centred inclusion across the programs we manage. This year, five per cent of program participants identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

I would like to express AVI's sincere appreciation for the cooperation and partnership with the Australian Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as well as the many partner organisations in Australia and overseas.

Our Board remains committed to organisational strengthening and innovation and increasing opportunities for Australians to successfully participate in programs influencing positive development outcomes, especially across the Asia Pacific region. We're looking forward to another year where AVI demonstrates its value to Australia and the international community.





## MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO - Paul Bird



In 2015-16, AVI focused on building relationships with organisations that drive sustainable outcomes for development initiatives around the world. At the heart of this development is the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #17 - enabling partnerships that focus on achieving outcomes that could not be achieved alone.

The Myanmar Tourism Business Hub, for example, is a partnership with AVI, DFAT and the Intrepid Group as part of DFAT's Business Partnership Platform. This tri-sector initiative shows the important role the private sector can play in securing development outcomes whilst achieving their business objectives.

AVI continues to shape new cross-sector partnerships such as the Solomon Islands Graduate Internship and Supervision Support Project (SIGISSP) which supports rural health. Partnerships were also formed between AVI and the Solomon Islands Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS), Timor-Leste's Ministry of Education and the Procurement and Logistics Services Facility, LEMIGAS and Local Government Professionals Australia.

AVI is proud to be a delivery partner of the Australian Government's Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program. I am pleased to report that 91 per cent of local partner organisations said the benefits of volunteers' work would continue after assignments concluded.

This year, AVI also developed an AVID youth pilot program with The Fijian Health Ministry and Oaktree for implementation in the coming financial year. The pilot will engage young Australian volunteers to work with Fijian volunteers in the mental health sector.

Sincere thanks go to DFAT's NGOs & Volunteers Branch, AVI's President Sam Mostyn, the Board and sub-committee members for their immense support; to the passionate and committed AVI team; to the dedicated partner organisations and to each and every inspiring Australian volunteer and all our supporters. I am confident that our contribution to sustainable development and public diplomacy will continue to grow in the coming year.





(L-R) Australian volunteer Research and Operations Mentor Tony Frugier with Ruth Fidelis of Burnet Institute, analysing medical samples at the organisation's laboratory located at St. Mary's Hospital Vunapope, Kokopo, East New Britain, PNG. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono



(L-R) Bougainville Integrated Community Learning Centre staff member Judith Moini with Australian volunteer Community Development Mentor Melaina Tate at the Centre's stationery shop. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono





(L-R) Arman Dore, Abdi Akbar, Australian volunteer Beau Newham, Rainny Situmorang and Ferdy Siwele of the Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN), who are working to strengthen communications and information management to better serve the rights and economic independence of Indigenous Peoples in Indonesia. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono



(L-R) Australian volunteer Ana Burggraaf lecturing at the Solomon Islands National University (SINU), Honiara. Ana is helping to establish and deliver the first ever Community Based Rehabilitation diploma, an important strategic initiative backed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the Western Pacific Region, aimed at equalising opportunities for people with disabilities. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono

*All Australian volunteers pictured participated in the AVID program, an Australian Government initiative.*



# Where we worked

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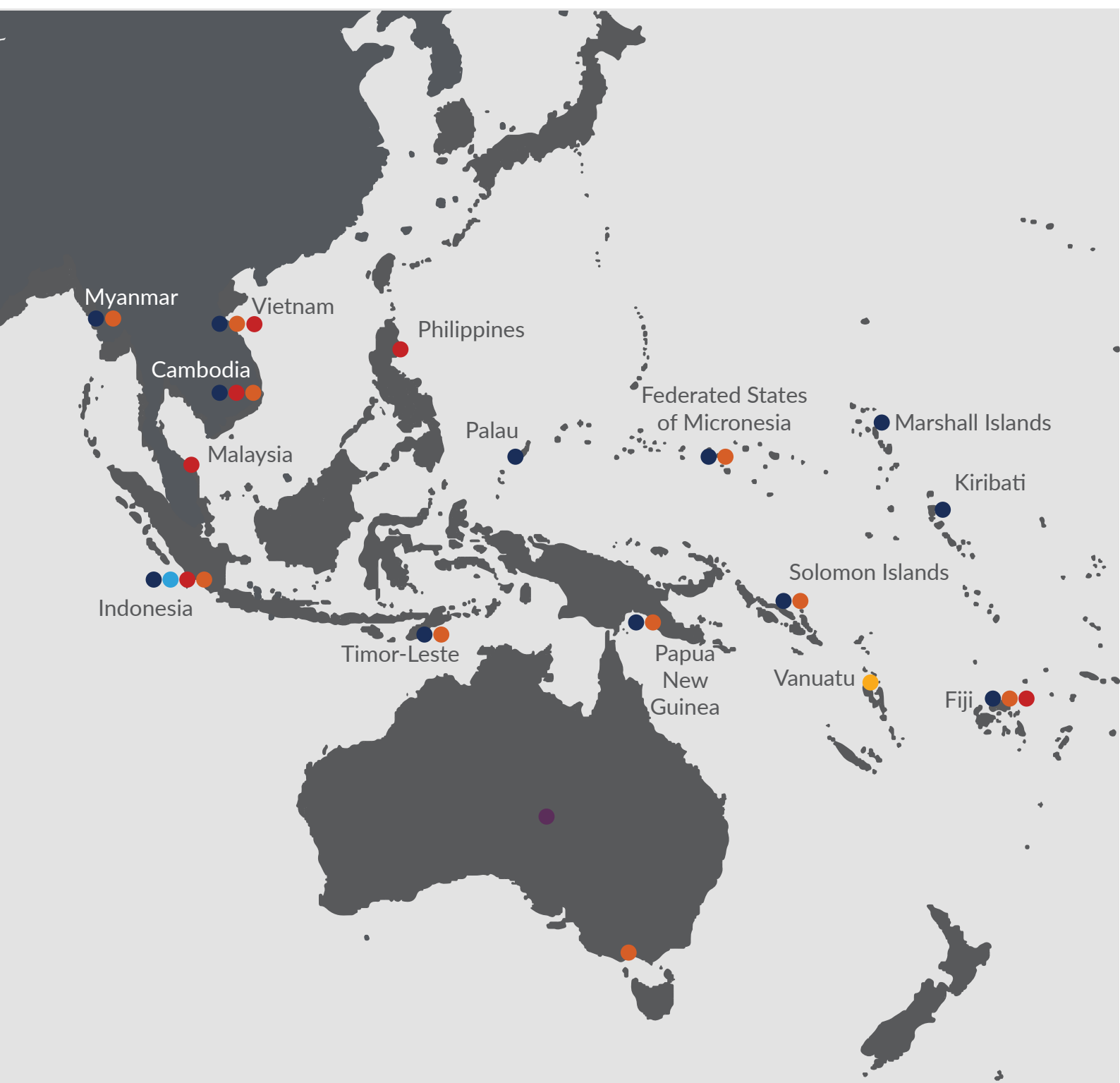
2015-16





## LEGEND

- AVID** – The Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program is an Australian Government initiative. Skilled Australians contribute to the Australian Government's aid program through volunteering.
- Melbourne University** – The University of Melbourne's Community Volunteering for Change - Global subject gives students practical experience in developing societies.
- Macquarie University** – Macquarie University's Professional and Community Engagement (PACE) initiative involves staff, students and alumni in transformative international experiences.
- Oodnadatta** – The Aboriginal Volunteer program invites Indigenous Australians to share experience, culture and create positive change with the community of Oodnadatta in South Australia.
- Classic Wallabies** – The Classic Wallabies' Exchange (CWE), a part of the AVID program, offers Indigenous Australians the opportunity to volunteer in a community in South Africa.
- IYPL** – The Indigenous Youth Leadership program (IYLP) sees young Indigenous Australians enhance their leadership and vocational skills through projects in Vanuatu.
- AVI staff** – AVI staff members worked from 16 countries to provide world-class support to program participants.



# In 2015-2016, AVI managed

international  
volunteers



who shared their skills, knowledge & experience

I N T W E N T Y F I V E C O U N T R I E S

The volunteers  
worked to support  
locally driven

economic, social  
& environmental  
change with

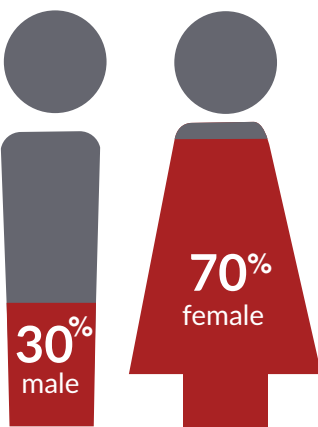
357  
partner  
organisations

98  
AVI  
staff  
worked  
out of  
16  
countries

5%



of volunteers were  
Aboriginal or  
Torres Strait  
Islander peoples



30  
years  
old

was the  
average  
volunteer  
age

99%

of volunteers  
successfully  
completed  
their assignment

with AVI's support\*

\*excluding volunteers who returned due to unexpected circumstances such as family or health issues.



“The AVI staff in Myanmar are highly committed people. They make it their business to understand all of the needs of the host organisations, and they are also very transparent. They are committed to working with us. I find it a joy working with AVI.”



**Susu Thatun,**  
Head,  
UN-Peace Support Unit,  
from the United Nations  
Resident Coordinator's  
Office,  
Myanmar

“In PNG, without change, we don't have a future for our children and for our community. We all have to work together. I've been really encouraged by AVI, they've given me hope, and hope for others in our field (tourism). AVI can find the right people to develop the capacity of our tourist guides and staff.”



**Susie McGrade,**  
Managing Director,  
Rabaul Historical Society,  
PNG

“The thing I like most about AVI, is their attention and their mindset towards the development of our country. I have experienced by working with them, that they have willingness towards our country, to our people, and to the development of Myanmar. That is the most we could hope for with any development partner.”



**Htet Oo Linn,**  
Public Relations Officer,  
from the Union of  
Myanmar Federation of  
Chambers of Commerce  
(UMFCCI)

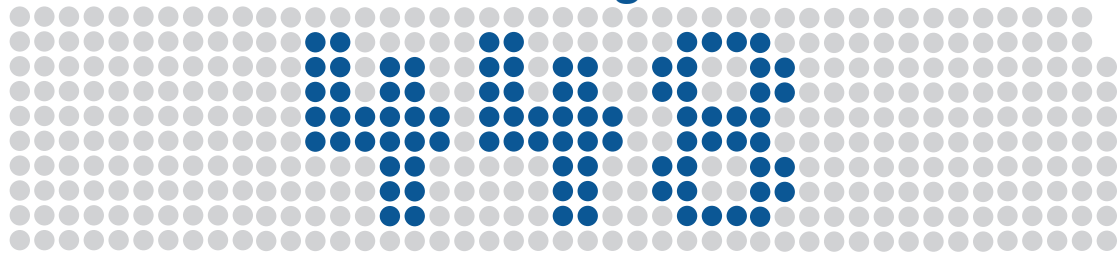
# We recruited and deployed skilled Australians from a range of sectors, including:



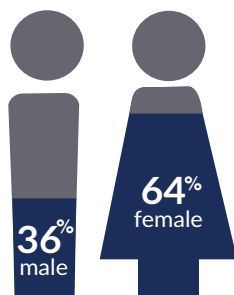


AVI is proud to be a delivery partner of the Australian Government's Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program.

### AVI managed



### AVID participants



4.5%

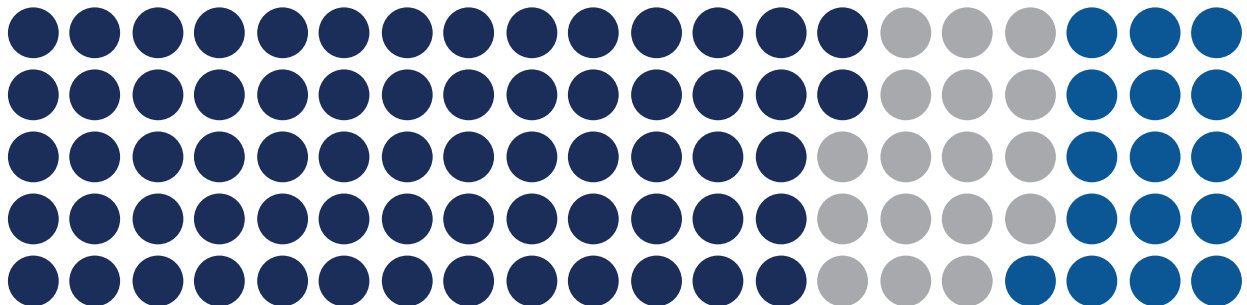
of volunteers were  
Aboriginal or Torres  
Strait Islander peoples

Of all AVID assignments in 2015-16, volunteer contributions were made to:

67%

17%

16%



organisational  
capacity  
development

individual  
counterpart  
or team  
development

structural or systemic  
change, such as legislation,  
government-level policy  
or framework change



91%

of partner organisations said *"the benefits of volunteers' work would continue after the assignment concluded"*.

450

the number of public diplomacy  
activities such as events,  
traditional media, social media  
hits and speaking engagements  
in national & international media

24%

assignments that had significant  
private sector engagement

98%

of volunteers successfully  
completed their assignments\*

\*excluding volunteers who returned due to  
unexpected circumstances such as family  
or health issues.



ACFID  
MEMBER



AVI is a member of the Australian Council For International Development (ACFID), the International FORUM on Development Service (FORUM), and the UN Global Compact.

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## FEEDBACK & E-COPY

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We welcome feedback on this report and on our operations and conduct generally.

To lodge feedback, please contact [tpearce@avi.org.au](mailto:tpearce@avi.org.au)

Complaints relating to a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct can be made to ACFID.  
See [www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints](http://www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints) for details.

Should you wish to receive an electronic copy of this annual report please email: [tpearce@avi.org.au](mailto:tpearce@avi.org.au) with "Annual Report – electronic copy" in the subject line.



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