

RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service)

Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd. (RAWCS) is a limited company formed in 1987 to support Australian Rotarians and Rotary Clubs in assisting disadvantaged communities and individuals.

Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) assists Rotary Clubs in Australia with the development and management of international community service projects. Whether it's projects to help rebuild in the aftermath of disaster, programs to bring education to countries where illiteracy stifles development or bringing health care and medical aid to those who can least access it.

The Rotary Districts in Australia and surrounding areas are divided into 5 regions for RAWCS administrative purposes. The national governing body of RAWCS serves as a council assisting and coordinating five regional RAWCS committees: Each Region is administered by an elected chair and a committee proposed each year by the appropriate District Governors.

RAWCS has an office on Rotary House in Parramatta

RAWCS provides the support and infrastructure for projects and volunteers and tax deductible status for donations.

RAWCS is not "The Rotary Foundation", but a RAWCS Project can also be a Rotary Foundation Project.

As well as assisting clubs projects, RAWCS has some specific programs:

1. Project Funding

RAWCS allows Clubs to raise funds from Rotarians, Corporates and members of the public giving it tax deductibility. The clubs will always be in control of the funds through the project coordinator, not RAWCS.

2. Project Volunteers

- Volunteers can assist with professional and artisan training; with building and maintenance of hospitals, health centres, schools etc.
- Volunteers can facilitate training of the local personnel so that the community is self sustaining.
- Skilled work teams such as qualified trades and helpers, work alongside Rotarians, Rotaractors, Trainees, and Non-Rotarians to get the project completed. Specialist volunteers such as Medical & Dental personnel, or Engineers are available as and when requested.
- All volunteers travel, live and work under the local conditions, thus creating a cohesive team with the locals and creating strong fellowship and new friends.
- The Regional Co-ordinator approves all programs, and organises Insurance cover for the volunteers.
- **However Volunteers cannot make a donation to the project and subsequently receive a benefit from that donation by way of airfare, accommodation or meals. They are not eligible under ATO rulings to claim these expenses as a tax deduction.**

A person wishing to volunteer for overseas service as a RAWCS/Rotary volunteer will need to contact a RAWCS Project Manager who is able to find a place on one of the teams that they are organising. A listing of all current RAWCS Projects details appear on the RAWCS website.

3. Donations in Kind

- Donations in Kind relies on volunteers to deliver donations to our storage facilities, ready for sorting and packing for shipment to their final destinations.
- Donations in Kind provides goods in two main areas, Education and Health.
- In education they focus on school and library books, classroom stationery and school equipment.
- Within the Health area they source medical supplies, medical equipment, wheelchairs, hospital beds, trolleys, etcetera.

4. Rotarians Against Malaria

- ***Rotarians Against Malaria is a volunteer-run organisation working to eliminate malaria.***
- Malaria is one of the biggest killers in the world today, attacking some of our most vulnerable communities and contributing significantly to the untold suffering and sustained poverty of more than 40% of the world's population.
- RAM is an Australian multi district project of RAWCS, working to reduce the death toll, and the social and economic loss caused by malaria in our neighbour countries through a progressive improvement and strengthening of local and national capabilities in malaria control.

5. RABS - Rotary Australia Benevolent Society

- The Rotary Australia Benevolent Society was established by RAWCS to assist Australian Rotary Clubs and Districts in responding to needs within their own communities, and to gain tax deductibility for donations made.
- RABS is a public benevolent institution with full Australian Taxation Office certification.
- RABS Projects can be registered by Australian Rotary Clubs and Rotary Districts.
- The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Act requires that all Benevolent Society projects must address one of the following criteria that arouse the compassion of your community:
 - Poverty
 - Sickness
 - Suffering
 - Distress
 - Misfortune
 - Disability
 - Destitution
 - Helplessness
- Projects may support disaster relief OR the needs of individuals.
- The main requirement for RABS projects is that they provide direct relief to people in need.

6. Rotary Developed Country Disaster Fund

- The Rotary Developed Countries Disaster Fund was established in 2015 to enable Rotary Clubs and Districts in Australia provide support for a disaster occurring in a developed country. Such as the Japanese Tsunami, the earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand and the recent floods in QLD
- A committee from the Australian Rotary Club or District that initiate the project will liaise with committee formed in the recipient Country made up from the local Rotary Club or District to provide funding for the direct relief of victims of the disaster.
- The money should be expended fairly and judiciously in as short a time as possible so that people affected get the relief and the committee in the recipient county is not left with funds after the needs have been provided by other agencies.

7. Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants (RACG) program

- Australian entrepreneur and philanthropist Dick Smith has generously donated \$ 1 million dollars for Rotary Australia Benevolent Society (RABS) projects throughout Australia. Administered through the Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants (RACG) program. This matched funding is designed to benefit a huge range of projects throughout the country and provide an important cash injection into helping our fellow Australians.
- The aim of the RACG Projects is to provide assistance to disadvantaged members of the Australian community irrespective of their location within Australia and must provide specific, direct relief to people in need and not be simply a general funding donation to an organisation even though that organisation may provide assistance to people in need
- Rotary Australia Compassionate Grants will match a Club's or District's fundraising on a dollar for dollar basis subject to the following;
 - A qualifying project must have a minimum value of \$2,000 (i.e. a minimum grant of \$1,000), and
 - A Club or District can apply for up to 2 grants in any calendar year, subject to a maximum grant total of \$10,000.
 - All RACG Projects must contain a budget that states the total cost of the project and the anticipated source of these funds.
 - All RACG Projects must be completed within 12 months of the date of registration and are required to submit six monthly online progress reports when requested and a final report on completion.