



**AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
NUKU'ALOFA**

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MEDIA RELEASE

More Australian volunteers arriving in Tonga



From left to right: Dave Wyler (In-Country Manager), Amanda Rickman (DFAT 3rd Secretary), Steve Davis, Stefan Wythes, HE Mr Brett Aldam (Australian High Commissioner), Reimen Hii, Scott McLennan (AusAID First Secretary) and Una Taumoepeau (Assistant In-Country Manager).

Three new Australian volunteers arrived in Tonga this week as part of the Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program.

The volunteers will work within two Tongan Government ministries and a faith-based vocational tertiary institution, to strengthen the organisations they work with increase their effectiveness and their long-term ability to improve the lives of people in Tonga.

Sr. Kieoma Finau, Principal of 'Ahopaniolo Technical Institute (ATI), said that she has noticed improvements from both teachers and students as a result of working with Australian volunteers placed at the ATI. The volunteers not only carried out their designated assignments, they also provided other benefits to host organisations.

“...the Australian volunteers have contributed greatly to improve the confidence of our students and build the capacity of our teachers. The volunteers we have had to date are

fully committed to their work and go the extra mile to enhance and promote the activities of the school. This has come to improve the standard of the training at 'Ahopanilolo especially with its competency based training"

AVID is a key part of Australia's aid program, and Australian volunteers play a vital role in improving the lives of people in developing countries. Volunteers work with local counterparts to build the skills of local staff. This ensures a lasting benefit to the organisations long after the volunteers' assignments are over.

The volunteers will be in Tonga for 12 months, and will be placed in the following organisations: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice and ATI.

For more information on the AVID Program in Tonga, please contact David Wyler, In-Country Manager, Austraining International, at 26464, or email david.wyler@austraining.com.au

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