



**AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
NUKU'ALOFA**

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MEDIA RELEASE

New Australian Volunteers arrive in Tonga



From left to right: Amanda Rickman (DFAT 3rd Secretary), Jason Guo, Sally Perry, Dave Wyler (In-Country Manager), Sky Fosbrooke, HE Mr Brett Aldam (Australian High Commissioner), Sandra Tomasi, Sonia Muir, Scott McLennan (AusAID First Secretary), Gordon Muir, Una Taumoepeau (Assistant In-Country Manager) and Felicity Dick.

Six new Australian volunteers arrived in Tonga this week as part of the Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program. The volunteers join the 22 already working in Tongan Government ministries and non-government organisations to support Tonga's development goals.

A key focus for the volunteers will be on developing capacity, sharing skills and building relationships in their respective assignments. The volunteers will be working in areas identified as priorities by the Tongan Government, including health, finance, the environment, disability and vocational education.

Mr. In-Kwon ('Amanaki) Kim, Director of Mango Tree Centre, said that the volunteers were helping the Centre to build its capacity and deliver services and support to the community:

“...through the help of Australian volunteers, who have so much knowledge and experience to share, our local staff have been trained so that we can provide professional rehabilitation therapy services effectively.... having an Australian volunteer has been a great bonus for our NGO”

The volunteers will be in Tonga for 12 months, and will be placed in the following organisations: Ministry of Finance and National Planning, The Mango Tree Center, Ministry of Health in Vava'u, Ministry of Lands, Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources; Tonga Audit Office and 'Ahopanilolo Technical Institute.

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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