



**AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
NUKU'ALOFA**

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MEDIA RELEASE

Another Group of Australian Volunteers arrive in Tonga



From left to right: Dave Wyler (In-Country Manager), Edward Winn-Dix, Scott McLennan (AusAID First Secretary), Chloe Damon, Tajeen Huque, Margaret Cuddihy, Haylee Gillies, HE Brett Aldam (Australian High Commissioner to Tonga), Amanda Rickman (DFAT 3rd Secretary), Xin Oh.

More Australian volunteers arrived in Tonga this week as part of the Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program. This latest group consists of six new volunteers, who will be placed within Tongan Government ministries and non-government organisations, in support of Tonga's development goals.

Mrs. Katherine Mafi, Program Officer at Tonga Family Health Association (TFHA) said that former Australian volunteers that have been placed with them have been beneficial to both the TFHA and the volunteers.

“...the Australian volunteers placed at TFHA have provided trainings that added value to outreach activities and increase the scope and impact of the FILITONU Drama Program. In addition, they foster a collaborative approach and help to sustain relationships with a

range of TFHA Stakeholders. They have also contributed towards our Data Collecting System adding better quality to our Clinic Program....”

AVID is a key part of Australia’s aid program, and Australian volunteers play a vital role in combating poverty. Volunteers work with local counterpart organisations to support the skills of staff and assist in their service delivery. This ensures a lasting benefit to the organisations long after the volunteers’ assignments are over.

These new volunteers will be in Tonga for 9 to 12 months, and will be placed in the following organisations: Ministry of Internal Affairs – Employment Division, Statistic Department, Ma’a Fafine moe Famili, Tonga Netball Association and the Tonga Family Health Association’s offices in Tongatapu and Vava’u.

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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For more information contact: ‘Ana Talanoa Baker, AusAID, Australian High Commission, 23-244.