



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity & Ministry

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Most Rev. Karol Kulczycki
Most Rev. Brian Mascord
Most Rev. Michael Morrissey
Most Rev. Donald Sproxtton

20th February 2025

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I write again encouraging your engagement in mission with Palms.

Over six decades now, Catholic participants from all over Australia and New Zealand have been placed by Palms in 40 countries, assisting the development of 408 communities in fields such as education, health, trades and other grass-roots development.

While many challenges to global mission have continued since the first waves of COVID 19 and there is still much anxiety, Palms began this year with its 107th Orientation Course, at which several quality participants were prepared for mission in Timor Leste and the Philippines.

Palms continues its response to overseas communities' requests to assist develop individual and organisational capacity through skill exchange. New skilled and committed applicants are being thoroughly prepared for their intercultural mission in remote parishes, schools and communities abroad.

I again urge that you please publish bulletin notices and forward emails sent to you that promote [opportunities for individuals to engage in a Palms Global Mission](#). While such a mission is not for everyone, connection to those assisting our neighbours overseas helps our parishes and schools to embrace diversity and live our calling as a global family.

Those considering a mission engagement with Palms can be advised of the following support:

1. The Diocese will support:
 - a. the cost of preparing Palms program participants for mission;
 - b. the cost of a re-entry weekend upon return from a mission placement abroad and
 - c. an indexed gratuity payment of \$2,999 (2025) after each year of mission abroad.
2. Palms negotiations with Catholic schools assures great support and benefits for teachers giving up to two years for mission abroad. Teachers can clarify details with Palms.

Through those sent on a Palms mission we are all given the opportunity to reach beyond cultural differences to affirm the dignity of all, while *"promoting and implementing the development goals that are supported by our deepest religious and ethical values."* (Pope Francis).

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol and followed by the name 'C Prowse' in a cursive script.

Most Rev. Christopher C Prowse, DD STD

Chair, Australian Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry