

# Alola Australia

## Annual Report

### 2018



'STRONG WOMEN, STRONG NATION'  
'FETO FORTE, NASAUN FORTE'

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Jan Hudson, Kirsty Sword Gusmão, Maria Bohan at 2018 MILK Morning Tea



***Alola Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of Australia, and elders, past, present and emerging. We stand in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.***

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## Our Vision

'Strong women, Strong Nation'  
Shared with our partner Fundasaun Alola  
'Feto Forte, Nasaun Forte'

## Our Mission

Partner with Fundasaun Alola in enabling women and families in Timor-Leste to build a strong future by raising awareness, funds and creating links in Australia, and building a strong sustainable organisation.

# Purpose

Alola Australia was established in 2008 and works in partnership with **Fundasaun Alola**, a Timorese NGO founded by Kirsty Sword Gusmão in 2001 to make positive and sustainable changes in the lives of women and children in Timor-Leste.

Alola Australia and our supporters raise awareness and funds to support **Fundasaun Alola's** mission which is to promote women's rights and increase women's leadership capacity; improve the health status of women and children; increase access to, and quality of, education for women and children; and strengthen women's small enterprises at the grassroots level. **Fundasaun Alola's** core values and principles are equality, justice, participation and respect; and, teamwork and voluntarism are critical elements to Alola's achieving its mission.

To achieve the mission **Fundasaun Alola** has 4 integrated programs:

- Advocacy: promote women's human rights
- Education: improve quality and access to education
- Maternal and Child Health: improve women's and children's health status
- Economic Empowerment: strengthen women's economic participation

**Fundasaun Alola's** programs create employment, promote human rights and strengthen community development.

They enhance the status of women across Timor-Leste, and they work hand-in-hand with the Government of Timor-Leste to achieve the nation's Development Goals.

Alola Australia is committed to enabling **Fundasaun Alola** undertake its work effectively and sustainably. We recognise that the interests of women, men and children are best served when local communities mobilise local community capacity. We obtain funds for Alola's



development work by harnessing supporters, undertaking fundraising activities and holding events which aim to raise at least \$120,000 per year.

## Chair's Report

As each year passes Alola Australia becomes stronger and more focused on supporting development programs to enable women and families in Timor-Leste to build a strong future. Our partnership with **Fundasaun Alola** is crucial to this work.

Our partnership/relationship document guides our work ***Servisu Hamutuk – Working Together***.

Alola Australia is a small but effective organisation run by a voluntary Board of Directors and with a large group of supporters across Australia. Our collaboration with **Fundasaun Alola** involves responding to the issues it identifies as being important.



Maria Bohan

We maintain dialogue and close links with **Fundasaun Alola** via:

- Visits to Australia by Fundasaun Alola staff who visit Australia for study, conferences and speaking engagements
- Visits to Timor-Leste by Board Directors and other Alola supporters, including meetings at Fundasaun Alola
- Sharing of key documents and reports; and
- The organisation of at least one meeting per year of the Alola Board with the CEO and/or Chair of **Fundasaun Alola**.

**Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão, AO** Chair of **Fundasaun Alola**, now based back in Melbourne, participated in several Alola Australia Board conversations during 2018. Conversations covered issues such as the Board of Fundasaun Alola, strategic contacts and a report of Fundasaun Alola's Annual General Meeting. We very much value Kirsty's attendance at Board and other meetings, her stories, insights, advice, presentations at key fundraising events and her commitment to connecting with Alola supporters and donors.

During the year we congratulated **Fundasaun Alola** on 17 years of leadership and advocacy for women and children and the provision of services across the districts of Timor-Leste. We noted that increasingly Alola's work impacts across many tiers in Timor-Leste as it nurtures women leaders and strategically works for gender equality and women's rights.

Alola Australia is committed to keeping our organisational costs to a minimum so that the funds we raise are transferred to **Fundasaun Alola**. In 2018 we testified once again to this achievement due to the significant unpaid voluntary work by a very special team of people: the Board and a team of highly dedicated volunteers.



Our **Strategic Plan 2018 – 2020**, framed our 2018 work and our key priorities for Alola Australia:

- Continue to strengthen, enrich and enhance the collaborative relationship between Alola Australia and **Fundasaun Alola**
- Raise funds to support the work of **Fundasaun Alola** by raising community awareness of **Fundasaun Alola's** work and the lives of Timor-Leste's women and children
- Formalize partnerships with like-minded organisations to further our work of supporting **Fundasaun Alola**

It is inspiring to be involved with Alola Australia and **Fundasaun Alola**. I take this opportunity to thank the Board for their vision, leadership, commitment and very hard work. I thank our volunteers and also Marita Jacobsson for her stunning work in 2018 as Alola Australia's Administration Coordinator (one day per week).

Marita Bohan

**Chair Alola Australia Board**



# Our Acknowledgements

## ***Our Board Directors***

Nicole Bluett-Boyd  
Maria Bohan (Chair)  
Nandy Gurr (appointed in July)  
Stephen Lavender, (Treasurer)  
Jacky Mandelbaum  
Jeannelle Menezes  
Christine Perkins  
Natalie Savin (Company Secretary)  
Helen Skinner (Deputy Chair)  
Helen Tchong



Christine Carolan (speaking on trafficking of women at Alola Aust. Board meeting) with Board members Helen Skinner and Helen Tchong

## ***Our Partner Fundasaun Alola***

Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO (Chair of the Board), the members of the Board, Alzira Dos Reis (CEO), the Staff Team, and the Volunteer Team.

Congratulations to **Fundasaun Alola** on a proud and strong 17 years supporting women and children of Timor-Leste, and of significant national and regional leadership on women's rights and gender equality.

## ***Alola Australia's Avos***

Avo Advisers are respected *elder* women who have or have had a particular association with Timor-Leste and/or Fundasaun Alola. They are appointed by the Board of Alola Australia and their role is to provide wise counsel on Alola Australia's activities, especially on matters that may require sensitivity and reconciliation. Alola Australia's Avos are:

Melanie Atkins, Jan Curtain, Jill Forsyth, Wendy Mayne, Christine Perkins and Rosalie Sword.

# Thank you

Alola Australia acknowledges and thanks everyone who has contributed to and supported bringing our mission to life during 2018: supporters, donors, friends and partners.

## **Patron**

Dame Quentin Bryce, AD, CVO

## **Supporters**

Friends of Alola groups and individuals across Australia and overseas.

## **Volunteers & Pro Bono Contributors**

A great list of people who help with mailouts, website, Facebook, newsletter, campaigns, stalls, events and fundraising.



*Alola Australia Afternoon Tea Guests*

Particularly we mention the contribution of Wendy Mayne and Sue Lee to the newsletter; Wendy Mayne to Facebook; Mardi Trompf and Wendy Mayne to the Trading Group; Bernadette Garcia to events and campaigns; and Paul Caine to our Dinner event.

## **Our Corporate Supporters**

- Salesforce.com
- The Shannon Company
- PKF Australia

## **Our Community Partners**

- International Women's Development Agency
- Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking Humans
- Rotary Club of Kew

## **Our close association with the Timor-Leste Friendship Groups, esp**

- Friends of Same
- Friends of Baucau
- Geelong Friends of Viqueque

## **Individuals**

- Jorge de Araujo

## **Alola Australia Administration Support Coordinator**

- Marita Jacobsson worked one day per week to support Alola Australia's work.

# Snapshots from Timor-Leste

Alola Australia applauds and celebrates the significant efforts and achievements of Fundasaun Alola in 2018. **Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão, AO** reported to the Fundasaun Alola AGM in August 2018 that Fundasaun Alola continues to be looked to by government and international development partners to provide advice and input on national policy and legal frameworks, and programs that affect women. Kirsty reports that this is due to the strong and innovative leadership of Fundasaun Alola, plus the commitment to a grass-roots approach to bring about positive change at many levels in Timor-Leste.

In addition, the **CEO of Fundasaun Alola, Alzira Dos Reis**, extends her leadership to roles on other Boards including:

- Rede Feto – a national network of women’s organisations working to advance gender equality and women’s rights
- ALFeLA – the organisation providing free legal assistance to women
- Pradet – a psychological service supporting people who are experiencing trauma, mental illness and other psychosocial problems.



Alzira Dos Reis with Jane Barnes

The following are *snapshots only* of Fundasaun Alola’s work. These snapshots demonstrate the breadth and strategic focus of Fundasaun Alola’s work plus the increasing focus on providing services to women and children in Timor-Leste in an integrated way.

In 2018, as Fundasaun Alola celebrated 17 years of work for the women and children in Timor-Leste, Alzira noted:

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***Our women are the mothers of our nation. From the strong women is  
born a great nation!***

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## Integrated Approach to Fundasaun Alola’s Work

The objective of an integrated approach is to improve the nutritional status of women and children in local areas and in 2018 this way of working was launched in the villages of Manumea and Kaimauk in Turiskai, Same.



## Maternal and Child Health

This Fundasaun Alola program utilizes a range of strategies directed at multiple levels: nationally and in districts; in health facilities such as hospitals, community health centres, in local health posts, and in the broader community.

The critical challenges remain:

- Infant mortality rates are still unacceptably high with 45 children out of every 1,000 live births failing to celebrate their first birthdays. The data shows that infant mortality rates in rural areas of 61 deaths per 1,000 live births are significantly higher than in urban areas, at 42 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Malnourishment remains extremely high with 27% of women estimated to be malnourished, 45% of children under 5 are underweight and 58% of children under 5 years have stunted growth. Alola's program activities target the remote areas with higher maternal and child health needs.



### *Celebrating breast feeding in Timor-Leste*

- **Community members** are vital for leading change and encouraging responsibility for Maternal and Child Health issues to everyone in all communities.
- **Promoting Exclusive Breastfeeding:** The *Mother Support Group/Suku Hadomi Inan no Oan* (MSG/SHIO) program provides counselling to encourage mothers to exclusively breastfeed. Mothers report that this is practical and sustainable if there is support from families, husbands and neighbours. MSG/SHIO groups were established in 16 new villages in Liquica (11), Aileu (1) and Baucau (4). 110 MSG/SHIO existing groups continued in 110 villages in 7 municipalities.

- **Safe Birthing - Birth Preparedness Planning:** This program supports pregnant women to develop birth plans, access professional childbirth care and gather support from their communities to provide transport when labour begins. In Oecusse the number of Planning Coordinators increased from 31% to 51%.
- **Raising Awareness of Nutrition with Community Leaders:** Workshops for community leaders, (women, churches, suku councils, xefe suco and aldeia, sub-district administrators and youth) were held in 39 villages across 5 municipalities: Dili, Liquica, Aileu, Manufahi and Oecusse.
- During **World Breastfeeding Week** in August, Fundasaun Alola, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and supported by Conoco Phillips, Woodside and Child Fund, celebrated breastfeeding in villages across Timor-Leste. Dozens of SHIO ('village loves their mothers and children') groups and hundreds of mothers participated in various activities aimed at raising awareness of the importance of breast milk for infants in their first 6 months.
- **HALIKU or "Hau Hili Atu Kura:** This *"I choose to be healed"* project aims to inform people about the symptoms of cancer and the potential contributing factors to cancer. Regular breast self-examinations and signs of cervical cancer are a focus with students from pre-secondary school to university, staff from government and non-government organisations, religious sisters, and members of MSGs/SHIO. HALIKU targets 29 villages in 5 municipalities and reached 1,915 people.
- Maria Imaculada Guterres, Program Manager of the Maternal and Child Health Program, was a keynote speaker at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual South East Asian Breast Cancer Symposium. She spoke about Fundasaun **Alola's HALIKU** program.

## Education

- The **Community Alternative Pre-school Program** operates in 60 centres in Ermera and 59 in Viqueque. Fundasaun Alola Field Officers visit centres weekly to observe progress, support the teaching and learning processes (including lesson plans, involving parents, facilitators and school committees), and evaluate progress and challenges. School Management Committees always include village chiefs. In addition, there is monitoring of children's enrolments and attendance; inclusion of children with disabilities; attending to school facilities; and encouragement of the community to plan for the future. Fundasaun Alola collaborates with Timor-Leste's Ministry of Education to conduct workshops to raise awareness of the critical importance of Early Childhood Development.

Alzira Reis with Marcelina Ines



- The **Scholarship Program** addresses the compound disadvantage experienced by many young women, especially in remote areas, among single-parent families, orphans, gender-based violence survivors, children from large families or those from situations of risk. Importantly, the program raises the awareness of scholarship recipients about gender-based violence, human trafficking and reproductive health. 135 girls and young women and 65 boys and young men were assisted with scholarships to attend primary, secondary school and university. In addition, the Australian Embassy through the Partnership for Human Development, offered 38 young women assistance to access universities.

These young women are encouraged to be independent and strong in decision-making in their families, communities and their country. Fundasaun Alola has high expectations that all students will graduate from university due to the support of individual donors, the Australian Embassy and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

- The Fundasaun **Alola Teacher Training** project continues to support the Ministry of Education in the implementation of new curriculum in primary schools and aims to improve students' achievements and learning by building the capacity of teachers and leaders with pedagogies and the new curriculum. National and international mentors are involved as key resources supporting this program.
- Fundasaun Alola's **Mobile Library Program** continues to foster a love of reading among children and a commitment to literacy by communities. Spending 2 weeks at a time, the Team visited 20 primary schools across Liquica, Bobonaro, Manatuto and Aileu. In addition, the Mobile Library Reading Program targeted Balibo, Maliana and Liquica, working with the communities, parents and peer tutors, attempting to involve committed parents and upper primary students to be tutors to young children needing extra support.

The **Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste**, Mr Peter Roberts (pictured) is an enthusiastic support of Fundasaun Alola's Mobile Library Program. Peter says *"The Alola Foundation does great work and Australia is very proud to work with Alola."*



## Economic Empowerment

- This program continues to develop its ability to influence and encourage economic and positive social change in Timor-Leste society, empowering women to stimulate their businesses through access to micro-credit, handicraft industry development, women's economic standing and the preservation of Timorese cultural identity.



- An **Alola Esperanza Galley** was created to promote Fundasaun Alola's collection of traditional fabrics; demonstrate the art of weaving with backstrap hooks; and strengthen understanding about the importance of weaving in Timorese culture. Visitors can view beautiful Tais, appreciate the connection between each piece, and appreciate the empowerment of women weavers through income generation.

The Gallery was established collaboratively between Alola Esperansa and Fundasaun Alola's Economic Empowerment Program. Ancestral Tais are selected for display; master weaver and weaver group workshops are held; Tais motifs unique to local areas are conserved; and Tais designer certificates are awarded.

- Fundasaun Alola continues to provide support to improve the quality of Tais manufacturing through training, development of natural colour dyeing of Tais, the diversification of Tais product modification, and internship programs thorough a small handicraft business in Dili.
- In addition, Fundasaun Alola produced a short film about natural dyes and organized a 2-day festival in Dili about natural dyes. Importantly producer groups are continually linked to national and international markets.



Natural dyes for handspun cotton

- Fundasaun Alola continues to assist women's collectives to source opportunities for promoting and selling local handicrafts. 50 producers came to the annual Alola Easter and Christmas Fairs in Dili. Products for sale included Tais, wood carvings, bags and dolls from Atauro, ceramics from Manatuto, womens' fashion accessories, virgin coconut soap, traditional food and other local produce.
- By **Working with vulnerable women**, including victims of gender-based violence and/or women at risk of human trafficking, Fundasaun Alola aims to increase access to income generation and promote women's economic independence by establishing local cooperatives. The project was active in 5 municipalities Baucau (Wailili), Viqueque (Bibileo), Manatuto (Funar), Liquica (Liquica Vila) and Oe-cusse (Quina). These groups offer training in business skills, financial management and create an incentive fund for each group for a saving-and-loans program. Alola Field Officers rely on the support of partners including the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Isocyanato Chega Ba Ita, Timor-Leste National Police (Vulnerable Person Unit) and local authorities.
- **Agricultural Facilities:** Rain Boots for Women Farmers and Mother Support Groups: To increase the work efficiency of women farmers, Fundasaun Alola provided 571 pairs of rain boots to farmers and Mother Support Group members who graduated from Fundasaun Alola's Maternal and Child Health Program. The rain boots improve the working experience and safety conditions of the women.



## Advocacy

- All Fundasaun Alola training programs include raising awareness of gender-based violence, human trafficking, and Domestic Violence Law. This integrated approach is a priority for Fundasaun Alola in its mission to prevent gender-based violence, strengthen women leaders and support decision-making by young women.
- Fundasaun Alola's **Women's Resource Centre** provides opportunities for young women (1,288 participants) and young men (574 participants) to develop their capacity and to better understand their rights. Young people are able to access the internet, computers, the library and are offered support and referral if they are victims/survivors of violence.



- **Young people** in two districts, Manatuto and Liquica developed the confidence to establish groups called Youth Movements, and also became facilitators for gender-based violence and public speaking workshops. In the same district, 25 young facilitators were offered training in Sexual and Reproductive Health.
- The priority of **strengthening women's leadership** at the municipal level continues with capacity building for women - both those already elected and potential candidates - in 24 villages and 12 municipalities. The women are offered mentoring, including supporting them to fulfil their roles and responsibilities in many contexts: for example, annual and 3-year planning, reflection after elections, implementing advocacy actions to respond to village problems, public-speaking and gender responsive budgeting.
- **Citizen Forums** are encouraged at the village level and priority issues repeatedly identified include: health, education, basic sanitation, infrastructure, gender-based violence, young women's problems (for example, early pregnancy), and agricultural issues. These forums are promoted via local media (community radio).
- **National level advocacy** includes advocacy for the promulgation and implementation of human trafficking legislation, the rights of domestic workers and working to ensure that women workers in the private sector are entitled to express their issues or problems freely and without discrimination.

- **Alola Media** disseminates information through radio talk shows called “Women in the World.” Themes include Fundasaun Alola’s programs and advocacy efforts. Fundasaun Alola believes that this strategy has the power to strengthen the credibility of Alola across communities and accelerate the achievement of Alola’s mission.

## **Strong Representation by Women in Timor-Leste Parliament**

The people of Timor-Leste elected a new Parliament in May 2018 with women making up 33.8% of those elected. The new Parliament is made up of 43 men and 22 women from across all political parties. Eighty percent of the voter population (aged 17 and over) turned out to vote – a great achievement given that voting is not compulsory. Fundasaun Alola can take some credit for this result through its work of empowerment, leadership training and advocacy.

## **Fundasaun Alola Stakeholders’ Workshop**

In October 2018 Fundasaun Alola stakeholders were invited to participate in a review of Alola’s 2018 Action Plan and to develop its Action Plan for 2019. The review identified that 85% of the Action Plan was achieved from January – October and that it was expected that 100% of the Plan would be achieved by December 2018. The Economic Empowerment Program however, only achieved 55% of its planned outcomes. The reason for this unfortunate underperformance was the wider political stalemate in Timor-Leste during 2018. 30% of the funding for this program comes from Timor-Leste’s Ministry of Social Security.

Alola’s best and unhappy experiences always offer lessons for improvement. Alola recognises that change is a constant factor in both the lives of Alola’s people and the Alola organisation. Alola intends to always bring ‘the good’ back into focus, to assist maintenance of a more balanced perspective and motivation. During 2019 Fundasaun Alola will work on a new Strategic Plan 2020–2024.

## **Management**

**Fundasaun Alola** prioritizes goals for an effective and efficient management and human resources system. Priorities include:

- Responsive systems for program management and evaluation
- Transparency and accountability in financial management
- Quality facilities’ management and processes
- Endowment funds for future programs
- Strong Human Resources systems, including performance appraisals and professional development for all staff
- Family-friendly work spaces

# Snapshots from Australia

## Fundraising Dinner

More than 100 friends gathered on 19 October at the Angliss Restaurant in Melbourne for our annual fundraising dinner. The dinner was also a celebration of Alola Australia's 10 years of partnership with Fundasaun Alola – a partnership that has raised AU\$1.6 million for women and children in Timor-Leste.

Special guests inspired with their stories of Timor-Leste past, present and hopes for the future. Glenda Lasslett, who has supported campaigns for independence and sustainable development in Timor Leste from New York to Melbourne to Dili, spoke about *what a young nation's women and men can achieve against all the odds*.

Abel Guterres, Timor-Leste Ambassador to Australia, spoke with passion about the same theme. Abel arrived in Australia as a refugee in 1975 and has lived through many on-the-ground experiences of development. He shared awe-inspiring stories of achievement by his fellow country women and men. It was indeed an honour to have Abel connecting with Alola's supporters and friends.

Many long-time friends of Timor-Leste attended: activists and supporters; volunteers and mentors; people who have lived and worked in Timor-Leste; people who have visited many times; people who have worked with governments supporting Timor-Leste; people who have participated in the Kirsty Sword Gusmão Study Tours; and some of the original Alola Australia Board members. Our Dinner Event raised just over AU\$18,000.

## Afternoon Tea

On an Autumn April Sunday in Melbourne 50 Alola supporters gathered in the Kathleen Syme Library in Carlton, to hear Gizela de Carvalho and Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmao AO talk about working with women in Timor-Leste. Alola Board members provided the afternoon tea and those present were able to chat and catch-up with the speakers and each other. New Alola friends, others preparing to soon visit Timor-Leste and long-time supporters valued easy access to a daytime event.



Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão introducing Gizela de Carvalho

## Tax Campaign

The Alola Tax campaign 2018 focussed on raising funds to strengthen women's leadership in rural areas across all districts of Timor-Leste.

As part of the campaign, Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão, AO said

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*“As the backbone of their families and communities, the women of Timor-Leste are natural leaders, decision-makers and agents of change. True and meaningful national development can only occur when the talents, instincts, priorities and leadership of the wonderful “feto timor” (women of Timor) are harnessed and promoted. I am immensely proud that Alola is at the forefront of this challenge.”*

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*Our 2018 Tax Campaign raised AU\$52,000 to support Alola.*

## **MILK Campaign – World Breast Feeding Week**

The theme for the 2018 campaign was “Nutrition, Food Security and Poverty Reduction.” Alola Australia’s campaign once again supported Fundasaun Alola’s Maternal and Child Health Program. The call for volunteers to bake a cake, invite friends around and ask for gold coin donations – was posted on our website and social media. MILK morning and afternoon teas, some big and many small, took place in cities and towns around Australia.

In Melbourne, guests enjoyed home baking by Alola Australia Board members and fresh Timor coffee by *Friends of Baucau*. Jacky Mandelbaum, Alola Australia Board member, reflected on her recent experience of giving birth in Australia and compared her experience to that of women in Timor-Leste. Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão, AO, spoke with conviction about Fundasaun Alola’s Maternal and Child Health Program.

A MILK Breakfast also took place in Canberra, co-hosted by the Timor-Leste Embassy, Canberra Friends of Dili and Cooking Circles. Helen Tchong, Alola Australia Board member, spoke about the MILK campaign and Alola’s work supporting maternal and child health. Ana Guterres, the accompanying spouse of Timor-Leste’s Ambassador to Australia, welcomed guests and reflected on the situation in Timor-Leste. The 2018 MILK Campaign raised AU\$27,586.

## **Christmas Campaign**

Our new **online shop** enabled supporters to purchase Christmas Gift Certificates as direct downloads. Supporters collectively contributed a wonderful AU\$12,184 by purchasing these certificates.

## **Our Supporters**

Loyal and innovative supporters across Australia continue to keep their eye on the women and children of Timor-Leste by making regular donations, bequests and organizing special fundraising initiatives.



- The **Inner Wheel Women of the A62 district** raised an amazing AU\$7,900 in just one year to support Alola Programs that support the elimination of childhood malnutrition in Timor-Leste.
- The **Brigidine Sisters of NSW and New Zealand** donated AU\$5,000.

### Trading: Alola Esperansa Products

Alola Australia continues to support the traditional weaving practices and the economic independence of the women of Timor-Leste by providing opportunities for the sale of Timorese handcrafts. Alola tais and bags are displayed for sale at our fundraising events, Christmas markets, craft markets and the Rotary Sustainability Store in Camberwell, and at other venues on request.



### Alola Tour to Timor-Leste

Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão and Nandy Gurr gave 8 participants a unique opportunity to experience Timor-Leste, meet its leaders, learn more about our nearest neighbour and raise funds for the Alola HALIKU Program. Alola Australia is proud to support these study tours and to assist with their promotion among our very diverse supporters, their families and friends.

When tour participants return from Timor-Leste, we warmly welcome them in to the Alola family and appreciate their commitment and on-going support for Timor-Leste and Alola.

### Communicating with Alola Supporters

Our quarterly newsletters, in a new format, share regular updates from Alola in Timor-Leste, interviews with Alola staff about the programs they lead or work in, news of fundraising events hosted by Alola supporters in Australia and overseas and news of Alola Australia events and campaigns.

Alola Australia's program of activities aims to continue building an important support base of Alola friends who value their commitment to the women and children of Timor-Leste.

**Alola Australia Limited**

ABN 20 132 084 050

Financial report

For the year ended 31 December 2018

Alola Australia Limited  
ABN 20 132 084 050  
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Alola Australia Limited  
ABN 20 132 084 050  
**Corporate information**

**Directors**

N. Bluett-Boyd  
M. Bohan, Chairperson  
N. Gurr (Appointed 16 July 2018)  
S. Lavender  
Y. Lay (Resigned 31 January 2018)  
J. Mandelbaum  
J. Menezes  
C. Perkins  
N. Savin  
H. Skinner  
H. Tchong (Appointed 19 February 2018)  
S. Varlamos (Resigned 13 March 2018)

**Company secretary**

J. Mandelbaum (Resigned 19 November 2018)  
N. Savin (Appointed 19 November 2018)

**Registered office**

Holding Redlich  
Level 8, 555 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

**Principal place of business**

377 Clarke St  
Northcote VIC 3070

**Solicitors**

Holding Redlich  
Level 8, 555 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

**Bankers**

ANZ  
55 Collins St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

**Auditor**

PKF Melbourne  
Level 12, 440 Collins St  
Melbourne, VIC 3000



Alola Australia Limited  
 ABN 20 132 084 050  
**Directors' report**

Your directors submit their special purpose financial report for the year ended 31 December 2018

### Directors

The names and details of the Company's directors in office during the calendar year and until the date of this report are as follows. Directors were in office for this entire year unless otherwise stated.

#### N. Bluett-Boyd

##### Qualifications

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours - Criminology)
- PhD Law (Legal Theory and Jurisprudence)

##### Relevant Experience/Roles

- Lead Researcher, Safe Futures Foundation (Timor-Leste)
- Senior Research Officer, Australian Institute of Family Studies
- Extensive Experience in Researching Violence Against Women

##### Special Responsibilities

- Fundraising – Christmas Campaign

#### M. Bohan, Chairperson

##### Qualifications

- Dip of Teaching Primary
- Graduate Diploma in Community Development RMIT

##### Relevant Experience/Roles

- CEO Carers Victoria 1994 - 2010 (annual budget \$10.5m)
- Manager Services Development CatholicCare 2012 - 2016
- Committee Community Owned Renewable Energy Project – Geelong Sustainability
- Pro bono mentor NFP CEOs,
- Significant leadership and social change experience

##### Special responsibilities

- Chairperson,
- Member Audit & Risk Committee
- Member Communications Committee
- Governance, fundraising, communications, strategic partnerships, planning , recruitment

#### N. Gurr (Appointed 16 July 2018)

##### Relevant Experience/Roles

- Co-ordinator New Community Ringwood – Fundraising Timor-Leste projects 2003-2016
- Board member Caleb Leadership Ministries 2008-2013
- Partnership with Kirsty Sword Gusmao – Study tours and projects – Timor-Leste 2007-2018
- Leading teams from New Community Ringwood to Timor-Leste 2012-2016
- Board member – Casa Vida Timor-Leste

##### Special responsibilities

- Advocacy
- Fundraising

#### S. Lavender

##### Qualifications

- B Comm (UoM)
- Grad Dip Comm Education (Caulfield IT)
- Dip Frontline Management (RMIT)

##### Relevant Experience/Roles

- Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants 1974-2011
- Treasurer, Only Just Fair Trade Inc (2013-Present)
- Election Monitor, Timor-Leste Presidential Elections 2012
- Treasurer, East Timor Women Australia 2012-2013

##### Special responsibilities

- Treasurer

#### J. Mandelbaum

##### Qualifications

- Bachelor of Laws (Honours), Bachelor of Science

##### Relevant Experience/Roles

- Legal Policy Advisor, Obesity Policy Coalition, cancer Council of Victoria 2017 2018

Alola Australia Limited

ABN 20 132 084 050

**Directors' report**

- Special Counsel, Corrs Chambers Westgarth (2015-2017)
- Senior Legal Researcher, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (2011-2014)
- Senior Associate, Griffith Hack Lawyers (2008-2011)

## Special Responsibilities

- Company Secretary until 19 November 2018
- Member Audit and Risk Committee

**Y. Lay (Resigned 31 January 2018)**

## Qualifications

- Bachelor of Laws (Honours)
- Diploma of Management

## Relevant Experience/Roles

- Employment in family violence service system (10 years)
- Board Member, Domestic Violence Victoria (3 years)
- Member, Quality and Audit Sub-committee (DVVic)
- Safety & Resilience within the Womens Research, Advocacy and Policy Centre, Good Shepherd Australia and New Zealand

## Special Responsibilities

- Portfolio Holder for Governance - Compliance and Internal Coordinator

**Jeanelle Menezes (Appointed 8 February 2016)**

## Qualifications

- BCom/ LLB (Honours) (Auckland, New Zealand)

## Relevant Experience/Roles

- Legal and Advisory - Corporate and International Tax (Allens Linklaters PWC)
- Policy development and advice - State Government of Victoria
- Legal policy - McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer, Cancer Council of Victoria

## Special Responsibilities

- Member Audit and Risk Committee

**C. Perkins**

## Qualifications:

- Diploma of Nursing
- Certificate IV Workplace Training and Assessment

## Relevant Experience / Roles

- Board Member Healthsharing Women and Macaulay Community Credit Cooperative
- Extensive experience in International Development and long time supporter of Timor-Leste

## Special responsibilities:

- Finance, Administration, Fundraising, Communications, Governance

**N. Savin**

## Qualifications

- BA (Queensland)
- MA - Policy and Law (La Trobe)

## Relevant Experience / Roles

- Executive management – state and local government
- CEO roles in several Not For Profit Organisations
- Previously Board Member of
  - Dental Health Services Victoria (9 years, last 3 years as Chair) 2000-2009
  - Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital (2 years) 2009-2011

## Special responsibilities

- Company Secretary from 19 November 2018
- Convenor Audit and Risk Management Committee

Alola Australia Limited  
 ABN 20 132 084 050  
**Directors' report**

**Helen Skinner**

Qualifications

BA Modern Languages (University of Cambridge, UK)  
 MA (University of Cambridge, UK)

Relevant Experience/Roles

- Director, Risk Assurance, PwC (focus on state government, health & not for profit sectors)
- Member, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW) - admitted 2006
- Member, Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) Australia
- Board Member, St Paul's Primary School Bentleigh

Special Responsibilities

- Deputy Chairperson
- Member of Audit and Risk Committee

**H. Tchung (Appointed 19 February 2018)**

Qualifications

- B. Comm (UoM) 2009
- BA (UoM) 2009

Relevant Experience/Roles

- Senior Policy Officer Dept of Premier & Cabinet (2017-present)
- Communication and Strategy Roles at Several NFP organisations
- Policy Officer at Federal Attorney General's Depart. (2012-2015)
- Alola MILK Campaign Volunteer

**Sunita Varlamos (resigned 13 March 2018)**

Qualifications

- Master of Public Policy and Management
- Graduate Diploma Business Management
- Graduate Diploma International and Community Development
- Graduate Diploma Social Research
- Bachelor of Arts (Sociology)

Relevant Experience/Roles

- Consultant to UNAIDS and UNICEF (Malaysia)
- Senior roles over 20 years managing international and community development social impact programs

During the financial year 10 meetings of directors were held. Attendances by each director during the year were as follows:

2018 Directors' meetings		
Director	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
N. Bluett-Boyd	12	7
M. Bohan, Chairperson	12	11
N. Gurr	5	3
S. Lavender	12	10
J. Mandelbaum	12	5
J. Menezes	12	10
C. Perkins	12	12
N. Savin	12	11
H. Skinner	12	10
H. Tchong	11	11
S. Varlamos	1	1

#### Directors benefits

Directors are not remunerated by Alola Australia Ltd for their service

#### Indemnification and insurance of directors

The amount of \$1,000 was paid, in December 2017, for Association Liability Insurance, during or since the end of the financial year for any person who is or has been an officer of the company.

#### Principal activities, objectives and results

The principal activities during the year were to conduct awareness raising and fundraising appeals for the Australia Timor-Leste Relief and Development Fund.

The company's mission is to partner with Fundasaun Alola in enabling women and families in Timor-Leste to build a strong future.

The company's objectives are to:

- Raise awareness, funds and create links within Australia
- Build a strong and sustainable organisation in Australia

In pursuit of those objectives the directors' focus in 2018 was to increase awareness in Australia of the work of Fundasaun Alola, to raise at least \$100,000 for the programs of Fundasaun Alola, to recruit volunteers to meet the promotional activity and skill needs of the organisation, and to strengthen and improve governance.

Sound progress was achieved against each of these goals.

As a not for profit entity, all donations received, less costs, will be distributed to Fundasaun Alola for use in a range of development projects in Timor-Leste.

#### Significant events after the balance date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

#### Capital structure

Alola Australia is a company limited by guarantee and as such does not have any share capital. Its Constitution precludes the payment of any dividends. In the event that it is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$2 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company. At 31 December 2018 there were 19 members of the company.

#### Auditor's independence declaration

The auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 31 December 2018 has been received and can be found on page 6.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

*Mawra Bohan*

M. Bohan  
 Director

Melbourne, 15 Apr 2019



**Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Directors of Alola Australia Limited**

In relation to our audit of the financial report of Alola Australia Limited for the financial year ended 31 December 2018, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* or any applicable code of professional conduct.

  
PKF**Steven Bradby****Partner****Melbourne, 15 April 2019**



Alola Australia Limited  
ABN 20 132 084 050

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**Statement of Surplus or Deficit and Other Comprehensive Income**  
For the year ended 31 December 2018

		<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	Note		
<b>Revenue</b>			
Advocacy		54,000	1,050
Breast cancer support		25,500	-
Economic Empowerment		1,300	12,057
Education		62,589	55,802
Maternal & Child Health		25,510	22,992
Sales		365	2,467
Gifts and donations - untied		45,724	99,608
Interest income		23	27
Total revenue		<b>215,011</b>	<b>194,003</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Overheads and campaign expenses			
Administration support		12,694	11,960
Audit fee		2,750	2,750
Bank fees and charges		1,681	2,000
Event and campaign expenses		5,947	9,108
Insurance expense		1,389	1,663
Inventory expense		373	1,483
Other expenses		935	2,479
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>25,769</i>	<i>31,443</i>
Disbursement to Fundasaun Alola		190,688	152,787
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>190,688</i>	<i>152,787</i>
Total expenses / disbursement to Fundasaun Alola		<b>216,457</b>	<b>184,230</b>
Surplus / (deficit) before income tax expense		<b>(1,447)</b>	<b>9,773</b>
Income tax expense	2	-	-
Operating surplus / deficit for the year	5	<b>(1,447)</b>	<b>9,773</b>
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
<b>Total accumulated losses/comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>(1,447)</b>	<b>9,773</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes



Alola Australia Limited  
ABN 20 132 084 050  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
As at 31 December 2018

	Note	2018	2017
<b>ASSETS</b>		\$	\$
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	1(b)	13,961	14,173
GST receivable		299	1,534
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>14,260</b>	<b>15,707</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>14,260</b>	<b>15,707</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus		14,260	15,707
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>14,260</b>	<b>15,707</b>

**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
For the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Equity at the beginning of the year	15,707	5,934
Total comprehensive income for the year	(1,447)	9,773
Equity at the end of the year	<b>14,260</b>	<b>15,707</b>

The above statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes



Alola Australia Limited  
 ABN 20 132 084 050  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
 For the year ended 31 December 2018

**Cash flows from operating activities**

Receipts in the form of donations and fundraising

Payment of expenses / disbursements

Net cash flow from operating activities

Cash at beginning of financial year

Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities

Cash at end of financial year

Note	2018	2017
	\$	\$
	216,246	194,003
	216,457	185,216
1(a)	(212)	8,787
	14,173	5,386
	(212)	8,787
	13,961	14,173

(a) Reconciliation of net cash flow from operating activities with operating surplus:

Operating surplus

Increase in payables / decrease in receivables

Increase in funds held on behalf of Fundasaun Alola

Net cash flow from operating activities

(1,447)	9,773
1,235 -	986
(212)	8,787

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes



Alola Australia Limited  
 ABN 20 132 084 050  
 Notes to the financial report

## **Note 1 Statement of significant accounting policies**

### *Corporate Information*

Alola Australia Limited is a not-for-profit entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The principal activity of the company during the year was to make positive and sustainable changes in the lives of women and children in Timor-Leste. The company had no employees as at 31 December 2018.

### *Financial Reporting Framework*

The Company is not a reporting entity because in the opinion of the directors, there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly, this "special purpose financial report" has been prepared so as to provide information required by the Directors, Members and Donors. Alola Australia Ltd is a small company limited by guarantee as defined by s45B of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of applicable Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, modified for use by non-reporting entities. It is compliant with the disclosure requirements of the following standards:

- AASB 101 "Presentation of Financial Statements"
- AASB 107 "Cashflow Statements"
- AASB 108 "Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors"
- AASB 110 "Events after the Balance Sheet Date"
- AASB 1031 "Materiality"

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

### *Significant Accounting Policies*

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported. The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial report:



**(a) Going Concern**

The financial report has been prepared adopting the going concern convention which assumes continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and the settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business.

**(b) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet comprise cash at bank and in hand and short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

**(c) Revenue recognition**

Revenue is recognised and measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable to the extent it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity and the revenue can be reliably measured. Gifts and donations are recognised when they are received or when the right to receive payment is established.

The Company acts as an agent for and on behalf of Fundasaun Alola to collect grants and donations from Australian supporters. The gross inflows of economic benefits in such cases are initially controlled by the company and therefore recognised as revenue.

These accounts are presented in Australian dollars.

**Note 2 Income tax**

Alola Australia Ltd has Tax Concession Charity status from the ATO (via ACNC).

**Note 3 Related party transactions**

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

**Note 4 Economic dependency**

The future operations of the company are dependent upon the continuation of adequate funding from donors and grantors.

**Note 5 Operating deficit**

The operating deficit (2018: \$1,447) is due to the timing of payments made to Fundasaun Alola. The deficit does not present a risk to Alola Australia's going concern.



Alola Australia Limited  
ABN 20 132 084 050  
**Directors' declaration**

In the opinion of the directors:

- (a) The company is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. Accordingly, as described in note 1 to the financial statements, the attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared for the purposes of complying with either the *Corporations Act 2001* requirements, or other request, to prepare and distribute financial statements to the members of Alola Australia Limited;
- (b) The financial statements and notes of the company give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2018 and its performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 1; and
- (c) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors

M. Bohan  
Director  
Melbourne, 15 April 2019

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ALOLA AUSTRALIA LIMITED

### Report on the audit of the Financial Report

#### Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying special purpose financial report of Alola Australia Limited (the company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018, the statements of surplus or deficit and other comprehensive income, changes in equity, and cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and the directors' declaration of the company.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis of Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial report of the company is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act), including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2018 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

#### Basis for Qualified Opinion

Cash donations are a significant source of fundraising revenue for the company. The company has determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of cash donations prior to entry into its financial records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding fundraising revenue from this source was limited, our audit procedures with respect to cash donations had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. We are therefore unable to express an opinion on whether the recorded cash donations of the company are complete.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ACNC Act and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the company's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### The Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The Directors' responsibility also includes such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is fairly presented and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors of the company are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



PKF  
Melbourne, 15 April 2019



Steven Bradby  
Partner