



# 2021

## Annual Report

Alola Australia

*'Strong Women, Strong Nation'*  
*'Feto Forte, Nasaun Forte'*

Alola Australia  
PO Box 382  
Abbotsford Vic 3067

friends@alola.org.au [www.alola.org.au](http://www.alola.org.au)

## Benvindu!

Thank you for reading the 2021 Annual Report of Aloia Australia.

We are delighted to share with you how the effort and generosity of our community in Australia is improving the lives of women and children in Timor-Leste.

Volunteer Board members

9



Part-time Admin Management

1



Volunteer Finance Officer

1



Funds sent to Fundasaun Aloia

**\$306,000**



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***Alola Australia acknowledges that we work, live, and play on the traditional lands of First Nations people. We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and 3 structural reforms: a Voice to Parliament, a Treaty, and Truth Telling.***



## 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 Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO 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 together 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.

# Co-Chairs' Report

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, and focuses on supporting development programs to enable women and families in Timor-Leste to build a strong future.

Our partnership with Fundasaun Alola is guided by our partnership/relationship document: ***Servisu Hamutuk – Working Together.***

Our Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022 continued to shape the key priorities for Alola Australia's work in 2021 – a most significant and challenging year for us and even more significant for Fundasaun Alola. Our supporters gave generously to continue supporting Fundasaun Alola adapt its programs to the COVID-19 context – which were subject to significant risks as a result of reduced funding from some other key donor organisations.

Alola Australia is committed to keeping our organisational costs to a minimum so that the funds we raise are transferred to Fundasaun Alola. In 2021 we testified once again to this achievement due to the significant unpaid voluntary work by the Board and dedicated volunteers.

We are both inspired by our involvement with Alola Australia and Fundasaun Alola. We take this opportunity to thank the Board for their vision, leadership, commitment and very hard work. We thank our volunteers, and Sue Lee who works as our Administration contractor.

We thank Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO for her ongoing leadership of and devotion to Fundasaun Alola, and her warm and strategic support for Alola Australia. We also thank Fundasaun Alola CEO Macu Guterres, for her inspirational leadership in Timor-Leste, and for regularly joining Alola Australia Board meetings, via Zoom, to share current news and updates.

Like all organisations in 2021, Alola Australia quickly engaged with a different kind of year and continued to work hard to support our sister organisation in Timor-Leste.

Our Board meetings were held online and our fundraising activities were also online. We are proud that in 2021 we forwarded **\$306,000** to support Fundasaun Alola. (Note: This means that we spent less than 7% of revenue, on administration and other overheads.)

*Maria Bohan & Helen Skinner*  
*Co-Chairs, Alola Australia*  
May 2022



# Our Acknowledgements

## ***Our Board Directors***

Nicole Bluett-Boyd  
Maria Bohan (Co-Chair)  
Nandy Gurr  
Breanna Guterres  
Stephen Lavender (Treasurer)  
Jacky Mandelbaum  
Christine Perkins (resigned May 2021)  
Natalie Savin (Company Secretary)  
Helen Skinner (Co-Chair)

Long-time Board Director Christine Perkins resigned from the Board at our May 2021 AGM. Christine who has visited Timor-Leste more than 40 times, joined the Board when it was established in 2008. The good news for Alola Australia, however, is that Christine continues to volunteer in many ways, including doing a significant part of Alola Australia's financial work. She is also an Avo, ie a respected 'elder' who has a deep association with Timor-Leste and Fundasaun Alola. Christine is also a member of Alola Australia's Audit and Risk Management Committee.

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

Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO (Chair of the Board), the members of the Board, Macu Guterres (CEO), the Staff Team, and the Volunteer Team.

Congratulations to ***Fundasaun Alola*** on 20 years of supporting the 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, Christine Perkins and Rosalie Sword.

Alola Australia acknowledges and thanks everyone who has contributed to and supported bringing our mission to life during 2021.

## ***Patron***

Dame Quentin Bryce, AD CVO.

## ***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 organising special fundraising initiatives: all made more difficult however in 2021.

We thank:

- Each supporter for continuing to give the gift of empowerment to the women and children of Timor-Leste
- Our regular donors
- The many individuals who in 2021 made significant donations
- The organisations that made significant donations during 2021:
  - ◇ Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools
  - ◇ Good Samaritan Foundation
  - ◇ Gum Tree Foundation
  - ◇ Wild Timor Coffee
  - ◇ Australian Communities Foundation/Dorrie Alcock Trust
  - ◇ Brent Foundation Pty Ltd
  - ◇ Dimmick Charitable Trust
  - ◇ Rotary Club of Belconnen
  - ◇ Rotary Club of Doncaster
  - ◇ Rotary Club of Kew
  - ◇ Andrew McNaughtan Foundation
  - ◇ Brigidine Sisters of New South Wales
  - ◇ Susan McKinnon Foundation
  - ◇ Rotary's Donations in Kind Warehouse

## ***Volunteers & Pro Bono Contributors***

A wonderful list of people who helped in 2021 with Alola Australia's website, social media, newsletter, campaigns and fundraising.

## ***Our Corporate Supporter***

Salesforce.com

## ***Our Community Partners***

International Women's Development Agency  
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)

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

Geelong Friends of Viqueque Friendship Schools  
Bendigo Friends of Maubisse  
Indigo Shire Friends of Atauro  
Wangaratta Friends of Lacluta  
Macedon Ranges Friends of East Timor  
Monash Friends of Vermasse  
Friends of Same

### ***Alola Australia Administration Support***

- Sue Lee worked one day per week in 2021 to support Alola Australia’s work.
- Christine Perkins works unpaid as Alola Australia’s Finance Officer.

### ***Our Campaigns***

Thanks to our supporters who contributed to our key fundraising campaigns in 2021. In 2021 Alola Australia ran four fundraising campaigns which raised a total of \$140,000, highlighted later in this report. These campaigns also contribute to community awareness and support of the fantastic programs carried out by Fundasaun Alola, which are further detailed in the following pages.

Alola Australia is proud to keep our operating costs to a minimum so that most funds raised can be transferred directly to Fundasaun Alola.

In addition to these campaigns, Alola Australia also raised \$88,000 in unsolicited donations; \$71,000 was given towards scholarships and our regular donors contributed \$20,000.



# Snapshot Reports from Timor-Leste

Due to COVID-19 Fundasaun Alola's Annual General Meeting was held on 19 November 2021. Fundasaun Alola's Annual Report 2020 was presented at this meeting. The snapshots below are taken from this Report as well as from conversations with Fundasaun Alola's Chair and CEO at Alola Australia Board meetings and meetings arranged for special planning conversations.

## Fundasaun Alola: Annual General Meeting

### Chairwoman's Statement

Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO was most disappointed that for a second year in a row she and her family were unable to visit Timor Leste. For Kirsty personally, this reality was particularly painful as she and her children usually visit their second homeland at least twice per year. Kirsty felt a great sense of loss at not being able to spend time with her Alola colleagues nor visit some of Alola's targeted communities. Due to today's technology Kirsty was present at the AGM and importantly also able to participate in Alola's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. Many of Alola's supporters in Australia also joined the AGM and celebrations from afar.



At the AGM Kirsty gave credit to the government of Timor-Leste for the efforts it undertook to control COVID-19 aiming to minimize the incidence of disease and loss of life. Within a very short time, the government built quarantine facilities and launched a national campaign of awareness raising re COVID prevention.

Fundasaun Alola demonstrated tremendous capacity to adapt to the crisis by mobilising staff and targeting communities to prepare and disseminate COVID-19 information in local languages and distributing humanitarian assistance to those worst affected by the restrictions on movement and other necessary preventative measures. Across the world the pandemic has had the greatest impact on the livelihoods of women and economic and social inequalities have grown more extreme. Fundasaun Alola's vision, as defined in the Strategic Plan 2020-2024 is to guarantee equality for women in all aspects of their daily lives, starting with access to education to full participation in the political and economic life of the nation. Kirsty noted that in the near future Alola's work will become more crucial than it normally is, as the nation and its women struggle to recover from the consequences of the pandemic.

### CEO's Statement



Maria Imaculada Guterres reported that the State of Emergency declared in Timor-Leste affected the movement of Alola staff and meant that the organisation changed its work plan, including activities to support the prevention of COVID-19 transmission. The feelings of fear of the virus could not stand in the way of staff, and their commitment to the women and children of Timor-Leste. The staff continued to make their best efforts to continue working in Alola's 4 main programs.

In concluding her detailed report to the AGM, the CEO said **"Together we are strong! Strong Women, Strong Nation!"**

## Economic Empowerment

To strengthen women's economic participation **Alola's Economic Empowerment Program** focuses on integrating activities for maximum impact, handcraft development and preservation of cultural heritage. As a result, Alola's program was chosen to lead an integrated project - *Business and Social Support for Female Entrepreneurs in Timor-Leste*. The project integrates women's economic empowerment activities with gender-based violence risk mitigation. It also engages other NGOs, micro-finance institutions, legal services and other support services to support women experiencing violence.

- **Double the Impact:** Alola continues to integrate the activities of the Economic Empowerment Program and the Maternal and Child Health Program (MCH). The MCH Team mobilize community volunteers to establish *Suku Hadomi Inan no Oan (SHIO)* groups at village level and offers seed funds to start savings and loan schemes, or micro-credit to establish a small business in villages. The interest is saved to rent local transportation and for fuel when patients need to give birth at a health facility.
- **Business and Social Support for Female Entrepreneurs in Timor-Leste:** this collaborative project integrates women's economic empowerment with gender-based violence risk mitigation - responding to the combined social, economic and regulatory challenges which prevent women entrepreneurs from starting, maintaining and expanding successful businesses.

Due to COVID-19 and the State of Emergency, public activities were prohibited from March 2020. The project continued however, via Skype, conference calls and text messages. Focus groups identify barriers faced by female entrepreneurs in finance, business development services and other support.

- **Preserving the Original Cultural Identity of Timor-Leste and Supporting Women's Livelihoods:** This project empowers marginalized women to contribute economically and culturally to the wellbeing of their families, communities and the nation as they prepare to share the cultural resources of Timor-Leste with international visitors.
- **Rural Artisan Women Improve their Production of Handcrafts and Access Markets:** This project improves the livelihoods of rural women through the development of the handcrafts industry. The COVID-19 pandemic hampered tourist visits and adversely affected the economy of Timor-Leste. However Alola continued to strive to achieve several projects: The Alola Christmas Fair and Workshops focussed on product quality improvement, business skills, customer service and presentation of stall displays.
- **Weavers Networking – Sharing Strategies for Empowerment, Ownership and Leadership:** Alola and Timor-Aid create women weavers' networks to raise the voices of weavers, facilitate capacity building opportunities and improve access to new markets.



## Maternal and Child Health Program

The nutrition status of children under five in Timor-Leste remains a significant public health challenge. Half of Timorese children under five are stunted (too short for their age), 8.6% are wasted (too thin for their height) and 32.1% are underweight. Breastfeeding rates are falling at the same time Timor-Leste is experiencing increased availability and promotion of breast milk substitute products. The percentage of babies under 6 months who are not breastfeeding has increased from 2% to 7%, and the percentage of babies given a bottle with a nipple has increased from 7% to 18%.

The Maternal and Child Health Program (MCH) responds to these and new challenges.

The Program initiated a community led **Total Sanitation Project**, integrated with the Mother Support Group Program in Dili, aiming to improve sanitation in households to reduce diarrhoea and other diseases. The project trained 37 health workers from 36 villages in 6 sub-municipalities of Dili. The project worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Institute of National Health Science.

Other on-going important work of the MCH Program includes:

- Training health workers and expanding Mother Support Groups
- Supporting newborn care and promoting breastfeeding
- Set-up of a Children's Playroom at the Baucau Regional Hospital
- Increasing access to safe birthing including the Maternity Packs Initiative
- Role Models; expanding Mother Support Groups and *Suco Hadomi Inan no Oan* groups
- Health Promotion Activities – counselling, cooking with local Indigenous food, safe motherhood films, community discussions
- Celebrating World Breastfeeding Week
- Mini Workshops for parents on reproductive health, family planning, safe birthing, nutrition and breastfeeding
- Male Engagement and Fathers' Discussions
- Increasing young people's health knowledge: sexual and reproductive health training + Youth Peer Sharing Sessions.

### Haliku-Raising Awareness, Support and Referral for Women's Cancers

"Hau Hili Atu Kura" (HALIKU) means "*I choose to be healed.*"

This program continues to achieve significant awareness-raising and support for women experiencing cancer:

- With support from an experienced Lymphedema specialist from Australia training was delivered to 5 physiotherapists at the Dili National Hospital about management of Lymphedema; at the same time raising awareness about early detection, treatment and support of women living with cancers
- Support for and referral of cancer patients
- Workshops and awareness raising activities about breast cancer and cervical cancer – for university students, youth groups, secondary schools and church communities
- On-going collaboration with the Ministry of Health through the National Breast Cancer Committee based at the National Hospital in Dili
- Information sessions for the staff at Alola Esperansa about the making of compression garments for women with breast cancer.



## Education Program

Fundasaun Alola's **Education Program** supports teachers, children, students and communities access and gain skills and knowledge to fulfill their personal goals. The Program partners with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS); and collaborates with other educational organisations.

The **In-Country Scholarship Project** supports disadvantaged students from basic school to university. Scholarships are funded through financial support from international government agencies, corporations, not-for profit international NGOs, Timor Leste Friendship Groups in Australia, and many individual supporters. Alola staff keep in regular contact with students to check progress and life challenges that might impact on their study; and visits their families in villages. Job Preparedness Training supports students apply for jobs in their new occupations. When funding is available the Team distributes laptops to university students.



**The Teacher Training Project** conducts 3 activities: a Reading Program, Classroom Observation, and Local Mentors Program. School leaders appreciate these activities because they uncover both the successes and difficulties of teaching and learning in classrooms. Local Mentors schools in municipalities.

The Teacher Training Team carries out an Intensive Literacy Support Program, especially Tetum literacy, for teachers in grades 1 and 2 – encouraging schools to use story books and to reactivate their school libraries.

**Mobile Libraries – Developing Reading Culture:** To provide reading resources with entertaining activities, Alola's Mobile Libraries visit children in Dili and remote communities providing access to both reading and after school hours activities. Community leaders are encouraged to identify student participants and encourage children to access reading activities in the Library vans. Parents, older students, and young people are engaged to sit with children and read with them.

**Community Based Pre-schools Project** - These programs operate in remote areas and children attend for an average of 9 hours per week. 199 trained facilitators offer various activities including play-based learning, creativity, problem solving, independence and respectful relationships. This Project will increasingly focus on follow-up training for facilitators re teaching and learning processes and conduct of parent education training.

To develop standard preschool infrastructure Alola is collaborating with UNICEF to construct preschool buildings. Alola Field Officers work with the construction consultant and monitor the effectiveness and quality of the work. Additionally this project allows Alola to support communities develop outdoor play areas.



## Advocacy Program

The **Advocacy Program** aims to promote and protect women's rights in Timor-Leste and focusses on working towards women and children living free from violence and discrimination in all aspects of their lives, raising awareness of gender issues and strengthening the voices of women in decision-making. A key focus is securing cooperation with partners at municipal, regional, national, and international levels. This program leads significant advocacy on Human Trafficking.

- **Alola's Women's Resource Centre** continues to provide free computer, internet, and library services to female and male youth; conduct monthly discussions on gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, leadership, human trafficking, public speaking, life skills, as for example Curriculum Vitae writing, and scholarship opportunities; domestic violence; gender responsive budgeting and gender issues in tax law.
- The Centre also leads regular meetings of the **Advocacy Working Group** that focuses on gender based violence. The group represents civil society organisations working for human rights and government representatives. In addition, in response to increasing reports of cases of infanticide in Dili, the Group examined the issue and prepared a statement on the prevention of infanticide and incest (recognizing that incest is one of the causes of concealed pregnancy). The paper was presented to the President of the Dili Municipality, 6 Administrators and 32 village chiefs. This action strengthened Alola's cooperation with national and municipal level partners, especially with male leaders. An outcome was that the Women's Parliamentarian's Group - **Grupo das Mulheres Parlamentares de Timor-Leste** - prepared laws to respond to increasing cases of infanticide.
- Beginning in 2013 and after 8 years of Alola's advocacy efforts the **Re-Entry Policy for Girls in School after Childbirth** has been realized – young women who left school due to pregnancy will soon be able to return to complete their education.
- Another important result is that after a long journey of advocacy, the government's **anti-trafficking commission – KLATU** - will be established.
- The **District Support Project** led the work to prevent community transmission of COVID-19. Alola Field Officers translated statements into local languages so that all communities could quickly understand actions for prevention. This Project also provided humanitarian packages to vulnerable families in 24 villages in 12 municipalities, including widows and women abandoned by their husbands, people with disabilities, elderly people and poor families.

This Project also conducted Citizens Forums in 24 villages in 12 municipalities. The forums were conducted by potential women candidates for municipal election, supported by Alola Field Officers. It was an opportunity for local communities to raise local problems and the potential candidate to advocate for solutions to the relevant authorities and institutions. Problems related to education, health, agriculture, economy, electricity, roads and violence. Additionally in each municipality the potential candidate participated in a community radio talk show to discuss the result.



- Dialogue between women potential candidates and women Parliamentarians continued because both groups of women found it valuable.
- To promote women’s rights and strengthen women’s leadership Alola’s **Advocacy Program** (with support from WAVE/IWDA) launched **two new research reports** about women’s leadership: **“Public Perception of Women’s Leadership in Timor-Leste”** and **“Journeys of Women’s Participation in Leadership.”**

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

Alzira Reis, former CEO, Fundasaun Alola



# Snapshots from Australia

## Timor-Leste: Alola's Flood Appeal

In April 2021 Timor-Leste faced a new crisis – on top of an outbreak of COVID-19. Dili was already in a dire situation under an extended lockdown and there was high anxiety within the population. The cramped shelters were struggling to maintain social distancing and basic hygiene. The need for help was immediate and critical. Devastating floods hit one weekend, killing at least 21 people with many others missing. Thousands of homes were affected, leaving countless people homeless and without belongs, food or water. Women and children escaping the floods were overwhelming local shelters where they were seeking food, clothes and basic hygiene.

Fundasaun Alola was standing ready to support communities and families across the affected areas. Support from donors to Alola Australia allowed Fundasaun Alola to secure and distribute food, clean water, clothing and hygiene kits to the women and children, including babies, in need.



## Tax Campaign

Our Alola Australia Tax campaign in 2021 focussed on **Fundasaun Alola's Scholarship Program**. Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO wrote to our supporters about the importance of education for girls in Timor-Leste. Kirsty emphasised that societies and countries are only advanced when women have the same education opportunities as men. In Timor-Leste access to school each year is not guaranteed. Sometimes school attendance depends on the wealth or size of your family, or the distance you live from school. This is the reality for many girls in Timor-Leste.

For young women there are many additional barriers to attending school and attaining educational credentials, as for example obtaining the resources and technology needed to achieve at school. Schooling is integral to personal enhancement and community progress. We know it provides confidence and enables women and girls to make self-determining decisions.

The Scholarship Program targets disadvantaged students and families, especially in remote areas, single-parent families, orphans, gender-based violence survivors, children from large families and those from other situations of risk. Some families and girls need support with school fees, transport, school materials, uniforms and living costs.

## MILK Campaign

With a focus on International Breastfeeding Week, 1 – 7 August Alola Australia turned our focus to Fundasaun Alola’s Maternal and Child Health Program.

In the months following the devastating Easter floods, the program nimbly adapted its regular program to respond to the needs of many hundreds of affected families. Support was needed by families in 22 evacuation centres. Fundasaun Alola needed to offer breastfeeding counselling to mothers, screening for childhood malnutrition, demonstrations of good infant feeding and cooking, and ensuring that only healthy wholefoods were donated by local and international charities.



Fundasaun Alola established the first “Nurturing Care - Breastfeeding Rescue” safe space. The ‘space’ was compact and mobile, integrating both Maternal and Child Health and Infant/Young Child Feeding best practice. It provides comfort to mothers, children and families in difficult times – a place where lifesaving breastfeeding support is offered. The program includes a “Bottle Amnesty” where families who are bottle feeding are sensitized about the risks, taught safe cup-feeding, and the bottles are removed in exchange for a cup.

Alola Australia shared this innovative work with our supporters and invited them to donate funds to further support Fundasaun Alola further develop the Nurturing Care concept.

## Christmas Campaign



The collective global experience of hardship in 2021 saw Alola Australia’s supporters capture the spirit of giving, taking Christmas time as an opportunity to share their passion for giving to friends and families. Gift certificates were purchased making significant contributions to advocacy, maternal and child health, education and empowerment programs in Timor-Leste.

Through these acts of giving, Alola supporters recognized that the importance of connections has never been more evident. It is people, not possession, which give us hope for the future. Alola Australia and our sister Fundasaun Alola are grateful for the heart, compassion and understanding shown by supporters.

## Communicating with Alola Supporters

In 2021 we sent out the four editions of **Alola nia Lian – Alola’s Voice**.

This quarterly newsletter shares stories direct from Timor-Leste, including special updates from Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO and CEO Macu Guterres; interviews with Fundasaun Alola staff about the programs they lead or work in; news of Alola Australia campaigns, and stories about our supporters who continue their commitment to Alola.

**Alola Australia Limited**

ABN 20 132 084 050

Financial report

For the year ended 31 December 2021

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, Co-Chair  
N. Gurr  
B. Guterres  
S. Lavender  
J. Mandelbaum  
C. Perkins (resigned 17 May 2021)  
N. Savin  
H. Skinner, Co-Chair

**Company secretary**

N. Savin

**Registered office & Principal place of business**

236 Young Street  
Fitzroy Vic 3065

**Solicitors**

Holding Redlich  
Level 8, 555 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

**Bankers**

Bank Australia  
280 Brunswick St Fitzroy 3065

**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 2021.

**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 & 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

**M Bohan, Co-Chair**

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
- Member of Steering Committee, Women in Local Democracy, Geelong
- Committee Community Owned Renewable Energy Project – Geelong Sustainability
- Pro bono mentor NFP CEOs
- Significant leadership and social change experience
- Board of Trustees, Glennen Charitable Foundation

Special responsibilities

- Co- Chair
- Member Audit & Risk Management Committee

**N Gurr**

Relevant Experience/Roles

- Coordinator New Community Ringwood -Fundraising Timor Leste 2003-16
- Board Member Caleb Leadership Ministries 2008-2013
- Partnership with Kirsty Sword Gusmao - study tours and projects 2007-2019
- Leading Teams from New Community Ringwood to Timor Leste 2012-2016
- Board Member Casa Vida Timor Leste
- Director, Spend It Well

Special responsibilities

- Advocacy
- Fundraising

**B Guterres**

Qualifications

- BA (Dean's Scholar's Program, Monash University)

Relevant Experience/Roles

- Communications Manager, Eating Disorders Victoria 2018 to date
- Marketing, communications and fundraising experience in the NFP sector
- Former Alola Australia Administration Services Coordinator

Special responsibilities

- Communications
- Fundraising

**S Lavender**

## Qualifications

- B Comm (UoM)
- Graduate Diploma in Community Education (Caulfield IT)
- Dip of Frontline Management (RMIT)

## Relevant Experience/Roles

- Member Institute of Chartered Accountants 1975-2011
- Treasurer, Only Just Fair Trade 2013- present
- Election Monitor Timor Leste Presidential Election 2012
- Treasurer East Timor Women's Association 2012-2013

## Special responsibilities

- Treasurer
- Member Audit and Risk Management Committee

**J Mandelbaum**

## Qualifications

- Bachelor of Laws (Honours), Bachelor of Science

## Relevant Experience/Roles

- General Counsel, Orygen 2020 to date
- Legal Policy Advisor Obesity Policy Coalition Cancer Council of Victoria 2017-18
- Special Counsel, Corrs Chambers Westgarth (2015-17)
- Senior Legal Researcher, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (2011-2014)
- Senior Associate, Griffith Hack lawyers (2008-2011)

## Special responsibilities

- Deputy Chairperson
- Member Audit and Risk Management Committee

**C Perkins (resigned 17 May 2021)**

## 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
- Member Audit and Risk Management Committee

**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)
  - Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital (2 years)

## Special responsibilities

- Company Secretary
- Convenor Audit and Risk Management Committee

**H Skinner, Co-Chair**

## Qualifications

- BA (University of Cambridge, UK)
- MA (University of Cambridge, UK)

## Relevant Experience / Roles

- Director PwC
- Member Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales Admitted 2006
- Member of Institute of Internal Auditors Australia
- Certified Internal Auditor and Member of Institute of Internal Auditors Australia
- Board Chair St Paul's Primary School Bentleigh

## Special responsibilities:

- Co-Chair
- Member Audit and Risk Management Committee

**Directors' meetings**

During the financial year 7 meetings of directors were held. Attendances by each director during the year were as follows:

2021 Directors' meetings		
Director	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
N. Bluett-Boyd	7	7
M. Bohan, Co-Chair	7	7
N. Gurr	7	6
B. Guterres	7	7
S. Lavender	7	7
J. Mandelbaum	7	7
C. Perkins	3	3
N. Savin	7	7
H. Skinner, Co-Chair	7	7

**Directors benefits**

Directors are not remunerated by Alola Australia Ltd for their service.

**Indemnification and insurance of directors**

Directors and Officers Insurance is in place for officers 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 2021 was to increase awareness in Australia of the work of Fundasaun Alola, to raise at least \$125,000 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 2021 there were 19 members of the company.

**Auditor's independence declaration**

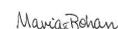
The auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 31 December 2021 has been received and can be found on page 5.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

H Skinner  
Co-Chair



M Bohan  
Co-Chair



Melbourne, 21 April 2022

## 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 2021, 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, 21 April 2022



Alola Australia Limited

ABN 20 132 084 050

**Statement of Surplus or Deficit and Other Comprehensive Income**

For the year ended 31 December 2021

		<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	Note		
<b>Revenue</b>			
Advocacy		19,450	350
Breast cancer support		3,200	2,300
Economic Empowerment		2,625	1,000
Education incl. scholarships		164,056	102,582
Maternal & Child Health		18,895	21,590
Flood Appeal		30,000	
Gifts and donations - untied		80,928	152,362
Interest income		5	16
Total revenue		<b>319,159</b>	<b>280,200</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Overheads and campaign expenses			
Administration support		13,574	13,365
Audit fee		2,800	2,800
Bank fees and charges		2,413	1,726
Event and campaign expenses		-	51
Insurance expense		1,157	1,175
Other expenses		2,308	1,606
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>22,252</i>	<i>20,722</i>
Disbursement to Fundasaun Alola		<i>306,066</i>	<i>259,061</i>
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>306,066</i>	<i>259,061</i>
Total expenses / disbursement to Fundasaun Alola		<b>328,318</b>	<b>279,783</b>
Surplus / (deficit) before income tax expense		<b>(9,159)</b>	<b>417</b>
Income tax expense	2	-	-
Operating surplus / deficit for the year	5	<b>(9,159)</b>	<b>417</b>
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
<b>Total accumulated losses/comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>(9,159)</b>	<b>417</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 2021

	Note	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
		\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	1(b)	8,590	16,108
GST receivable		849	2,490
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u><b>9,439</b></u>	<u><b>18,598</b></u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><b>9,439</b></u>	<u><b>18,598</b></u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus		9,439	18,598
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u><b>9,439</b></u>	<u><b>18,598</b></u>

**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
 For the year ended 31 December 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	\$	\$
Equity at the beginning of the year	18,598	18,181
Total comprehensive income for the year	(9,159)	417
Equity at the end of the year	<u><b>9,439</b></u>	<u><b>18,598</b></u>

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 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts in the form of donations and fundraising		319,159	280,200
Payment of expenses / disbursements		326,677	280,544
Net cash flow from operating activities	1(a)	<u>(7,518)</u>	<u>(344)</u>
Cash at beginning of financial year		16,108	<u>16,452</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		<u>(7,518)</u>	<u>(344)</u>
Cash at end of financial year		<u>8,590</u>	<u>16,108</u>
(a) Reconciliation of net cash flow from operating activities with operating surplus:			
Operating surplus (deficit)		(9,159)	417
Increase in payables / decrease in receivables		1,641	(761)
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>(7,519)</u>	<u>(344)</u>

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. It is a small company limited by guarantee as defined by s45B of the Corporations Act 2001.

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 2021.

### ***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, and to satisfy the reporting requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

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 Statement of Cash Flows*

*AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*

*AASB 1048 Interpretation of Standards*

*AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures*

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 (2021: \$9,159) 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**

As stated in Note 1 of the financial statements, the company is not a reporting entity because, in the opinion of the directors, it is unlikely that users exist who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy, specifically, all of their information needs. Accordingly, these special purpose financial statements have been prepared to satisfy the directors' reporting obligations under Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

In the opinion of the directors of Alola Australia Limited the accompanying special purpose financial statements and notes:

- (a)
  - (i) comply with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, to the extent outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements;
  - (ii) comply with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013* ; and
  - (iii) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2021 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) 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

H Skinner  
Co-Chair

M Bohan  
Co-Chair

Melbourne, 21 April 2022

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Alola Australia Limited

### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Alola Australia Limited (the company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021, the statements of surplus or deficit and other comprehensive income, changes in members' funds, and cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (the ACNC Act), including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 31 December 2021 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

### Basis for Opinion

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

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 (including Independence Standards)* (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.

### 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 to determine that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act. 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 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



PKF

Melbourne, 21 April 2022



Steven Bradby  
Partner