



# 2022

## 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 2022 Annual Report of Alola Australia.**

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

Volunteer Board members

**8**



Part-time Admin Management

**1**



Volunteer Finance Officer

**1**



Funds sent to Fundasaun Alola

**\$283,000**



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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**, an 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. Teamwork and voluntarism are critical elements to **Fundasaun Alola**.

To achieve its 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 2022. Our supporters gave generously to help Fundasaun Alola respond to the COVID-19 context, and helped manage exposure to the significant risks caused by 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 2022 we testified once again to this achievement due to the significant unpaid voluntary work by the Board.

We are both inspired by our involvement with Alola Australia and Fundasaun Alola. We take this opportunity to thank our fellow Board members for their vision, leadership, commitment and very hard work. We thank our volunteers, Sue Lee who works as our Administration contractor, and Christine Perkins who volunteers as our Finance Officer and continues to provide wise counsel to the Board as a trusted 'Avo'.

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 2022, Alola Australia quickly engaged with a different kind of year due to the COVID recovery financial context 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 2022 we forwarded \$283,000 to support Fundasaun Alola.

(Note: This means that Alola Australia spent less than 7% of revenue on administration and other overheads.)

*Maria Bohan & Helen Skinner*  
*Co-Chairs, Alola Australia May 2023*



# Our Acknowledgements

## *Our Board Directors*

Nicole Bluett-Boyd

Nandy Gurr

Stephen Lavender (Treasurer)

Natalie Savin (Company Secretary)

Heather Wallace (appointed December 2022)

Maria Bohan (Co-Chair)

Breanna Guterres (resigned December 2022)

Jacky Mandelbaum

Helen Skinner (Co-Chair)

Alola Australia acknowledges and thanks everyone who has contributed to and supported bringing our mission to life during 2022.

## *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.

## *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.

## *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.

We thank:

- Each supporter for continuing to give the gift of empowerment to the women and children of Timor-Leste
- Our regular donors who gave a total of \$24,047.
- The many individuals who in 2022 made significant donations
- The many individuals and groups who support the scholarship programs
- The organisations that made significant donations of \$61,498 during 2022:
  - ◆ Wild Timor Coffee
  - ◆ Australian Communities Foundation/Dorrie Alcock Trust
  - ◆ Brent Foundation Pty Ltd
  - ◆ Dimmick Charitable Trust
  - ◆ Andrew McNaughtan Foundation
  - ◆ Brigidine Sisters of New South Wales
  - ◆ Susan McKinnon Foundation
  - ◆ Sandi Foundation

### ***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 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 Organisational Support***

Sue Lee worked one day per week in 2022 to support Alola Australia's work.  
Christine Perkins, an Alola Australia 'Avo', volunteers as Alola Australia's Finance Officer.

### ***Our Campaigns***

Thanks to our supporters who contributed to our key fundraising campaigns in 2022. In 2022 Alola Australia ran four fundraising campaigns which raised a total of \$139,577 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 \$33,456 in unsolicited donations; \$89,882 was given towards scholarships.

### ***Communicating with Alola Supporters***

In 2022 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 also posts updates on Instagram and Facebook.

# Snapshot Reports from Timor-Leste



Fundasaun Alola's Annual General Meeting was held in **November 2022**. **Fundasaun Alola's Annual Report 2021 was presented at this meeting.** The snapshots below are taken from this Report, as well as from conversations with Fundasaun Alola's Chair, Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO and CEO, Macu Guterres at Alola Australia Board meetings and meetings arranged for special planning conversations.

## The Year at a Glance

2021 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fundasaun Alola. This momentous occasion provided an opportunity to reflect on the humble beginnings, and enduring mission, of Alola. At a celebratory event held in November staff and Board members sang a new anthem of Alola, reiterating the eternal goal of supporting strong women in a strong nation. Those present were able to recall the many adaptive ways that Alola has carried out this mission over the past two decades. They were also able to look to the future and see a clear vision for the strengthening and expansion of Alola's work.

2021 also brought continued hardship in Timor-Leste. The pandemic saw concentrated efforts on vaccine roll-outs, COVID-testing, isolation and quarantine measures, as well as lockdowns. Alola continued to support women and children through the lockdowns, having been granted permission to continue most of their routine work. All activities were adapted to include COVID-related education and the provision of materials aimed at reducing infection. In addition to the effects of the ongoing pandemic, April saw devastating floods affect communities across the country. Many, including Alola staff, lost their homes and belongings.

In response to the floods, Alola worked quickly to create a number of child-friendly spaces aimed at promoting psychosocial well-being through continuing education and creative activities. These spaces also provided information and health-related materials including hand sanitizer and masks. A total of 1,521 children were assisted in these spaces. Alola Teams also assisted at evacuation centres, providing crucial nutrition information and support to families, including many new mothers. 1030 households including 87 pregnant women, 188 lactating women, and 604 children benefitted from malnutrition screening and intervention. This work, assisted by funds raised by Alola Australia, was praised by the Ministry of Health, United Nations Children's fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation.

In a year of highs and lows, stunning achievements, and unforeseeable hardship, Fundasaun Alola has shown dedication to assisting the women and children of Timor-Leste. The range of services and programs Alola provides have continued to evolve and expand in response to changing community needs and best practice. Below, we summarise the impressive range of work performed throughout the year.

**“Even though 2021 was the hardest time to achieve our mission...we continued to serve our beneficiaries...especially the women and children in rural municipalities.** *Macu Guterres*





## Economic Empowerment

Strengthening women's economic participation, by the numbers:

- The Alola Economic Empowerment program partnered with Timor Aid to successfully establish a Weaver's Network in both Litem and Oe-cusse. This unique network enhances women's economic participation and engages women in cultural preservation. More than 100 weavers were trained across the two networks. The networks continue to facilitate the sharing of strategies for empowerment, ownership and leadership.
- The Women and Girls Empowered Business and Social Support to Female Entrepreneurs Projects also continued to contribute to gender-based violence risk mitigation through leveraging the capacity of microfinance institutions and other organisations aimed at providing women with financial and social support.
- As part of this program, the Alola Team held education sessions with 300 participants in Ermera and Liquica on the dual issues of business support and gender-based violence.
- The Alola Team further facilitated workshops with 90 staff at microfinancing organisations to build their capacity on gender understanding and sensitivity.
- Alola also held a Market Fair to showcase and sell many of the products made by participants. The revenue from the fair totalled \$8,274.50USD.
- Together with the Maternal Child Health Team, the Economic Empowerment Team monitored microfinance activities by at-risk mothers in the municipalities of Ainaro, Aileu and Liquica. Despite the impact of the pandemic on women's ability to earn, the program found a marked improvement to the quality of life experienced by participants.



## Maternal and Child Health Program

Helping mothers, helping babies, by the numbers:

- The Maternal Child Health Program worked with 153 Mother Support Groups across four municipalities to promote breastfeeding and timely complementary feeding.
- Hospital-based supported skin-to-skin contact for 3,181 babies.
- Counselling and information on breastfeeding and post-partum care was provided to 6,308 mothers and 7,665 family members through the program.
- 365 women were provided with Maternity Packs, and 49 women in regional hospitals were provided with clothing packs.
- 375 women were provided with direct technical assistance with problems breastfeeding.
- The Teams also conducted 24 Father's Engagement meetings in 8 targeted villages.

Improving the health status of women, by the numbers:

- 14,137 people participated in complimentary cooking demonstrations provided by Fundasaun Alola.
- The Teams provided refresher training to 60 Suco Hadomi Inan Ho Oan (Our Village Loves Mothers and Babies) members on women's health and nutrition.
- Health promotion activities expanded into and additional 22 schools and 6 administrative posts in Dili, adding to the 791 students who received information sessions across the country.
- Youth Peer Educators were also supported and educated a total of 218 young people on common body issues.
- Alola received positive data showing that awareness raising provided in villages in recent years has resulted in significant community investment in building 1082 toilets and installing 277 septic tanks increasing sanitation in many communities. The team continues to gather data on these issues across the country.
- Haliku, the Women's Cancer Support Project, educated 732 people on early detection of breast and cervical cancer, referred 27 patients to Dili National Hospital, and provided support to 35 additional patients including providing mastectomy bras and prothesis.
- Alola also established a playroom for children in Baucau Regional Hospital. In the course of the year 1,933 children and 1,789 parents benefited from the activities and amenities offered.



## Education Program

Improving the quality and accessibility of education, by the numbers:

- In 2021, 218 students were beneficiaries of the Alola Scholarship Program. 25 additional students were supported to graduate from University. Many students were also provided with laptops to assist with the remote learning required due to the pandemic.
- The Alola Education Program introduced “Homestay” scholarships over holiday periods, pairing students with foreign families based in Timor-Leste. This promotion of cross-cultural exchange improved the language learning by students, particularly in English and Portuguese.
- Through the Teacher Training Project 23 primary teachers were supported to improve their teaching of Tetum literacy to 689 Grade 1 and 2 students.
- In 2021 Alola ran 12 community-based reading centres in 3 administrative posts, this included the establishment of an additional 4 community reading centres in Manatuto. The project engaged 178 tutors who were provided with extensive training. The project targets children in Grades 1-3 and includes pre and post testing to monitor improved literacy. End of year results showed an average 18% improvement in literacy test score for participants in the program.
- The Community-Based Preschool Program continued to manage 104 centres in Ermera and Viqueque, where a total of 2,892 students are supported by 193 trained facilitators.



## Advocacy Program

Promoting the rights of women, by the numbers:

- The Women's Resource Centre continued to conduct targeted information sessions to educate participants on issues such as Gender-Based Violence, Sexual and Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS, and Human Trafficking Prevention. The Centre received over 569 visitors, with an additional 303 participating in monthly discussions. A total of 40 survivors of family violence were directly supported and referred and 10 humanitarian packages were provided.
- Towards addressing gender-based violence the Advocacy Program ran 2 spotlight projects. The Connect with Respect program was implemented in 15 pre-secondary schools in Ermera, Bobonaro, and Viqueque, and trained 453 parents in 2021 alone. A National Reference Group of government, non-government and community-based representatives was established to oversee the continued work of this project.
- A second spotlight project established youth activism groups in 7 villages across Viqueque. The core business of these groups is to promote the leadership of young women with respect to activism against gender-based violence. This program had 382 participants and distributed over 3,200 information and promotional materials.
- Alola also held socialisations on the prevention of gender-based violence in 9 other municipalities. 245 women who accessed health facilities received information on gender-based violence, in addition to maternity packs.
- The Advocacy Program also delivered training to 7 women's groups on how to manage a business, support their own livelihoods and make decisions to benefit themselves and their families.
- Crucially, Alola was at the forefront of a number of anti-human trafficking initiatives, including convening working groups, and socializing information on Anti-Human Trafficking Laws as well as the issue more broadly. Through these initiatives, prevention and protection information was socialised to youth and community leaders across the country.



These numbers are striking. The flow on effects of each program, project, intervention and facilitation, are immeasurable. It is clear that Fundasaun Alola has continued to play a critical role in supporting the women and children of Timor-Leste through the compounding hardships of the pandemic and increasing natural disasters brought about through climate change. Fundasaun Alola has stayed true to its mission, but has also adapted to prominent issues such as human trafficking and gender-based violence. The role that Fundasaun Alola plays into the future will no doubt remain essential to the strength of Timor-Leste as a nation.

# Snapshots from Australia

## **Autumn Appeal:** Keeping the Lights On at Fundasaun Alola      \$5194

We heard from CEO Macu Guterres that Fundasaun Alola's performance and all of its operational activities are highly dependent on funding from donors, both local and international. The COVID pandemic had an impact on Alola's financial situation because several donors began to tighten their budget for aid and the competition to secure future aid was becoming harder.

Macu shared with our supporters that several of Alola's vital operating costs to keep the organisations strong and vital, is challenging. As for example:

- **Electricity:** Sometimes the power goes off in Dili and Alola needed to place a generator in the Central Office. A generator ensures that daily operational activities can continue to support Alola's programs and public services. The generator also ensures continuous communication with partners.
- **Human Resources:** Critical to supporting Alola's work is a skilled staff team who carry responsibility for many tasks. This team needs various equipment and support facilities, all of which require maintenance and updates.
- **Cars:** Alola has 14 cars some of which are 15 years old. 70% of Timor-Leste's people live in rural and remote areas, so cars for Alola staff are critical. Roads are often unsealed with large potholes and broken bridges. Alola's petrol and maintenance costs are therefore high.
- **IT, Equipment and Maintenance:** Experienced staff are needed to manage all the problems related to computer hardware and software systems. In the context of COVID, internet functionality was and is critical to replace face-to-face sessions when needed, and to support alternative communication channels with donors when the challenge of international travel between countries was too great.

## **Tax Campaign**      \$98,980

Our Tax Campaign shared the history of Juliana dos Santos, who returned to Timor-Leste after spending 22 years held captive in West Timor as a 'trophy' of war. Juliana's experience inspired Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO to create Fundasaun Alola to focus on the safety, resilience and empowerment of women and children in Timor-Leste. Juliana is one of hundreds of 'stolen children' and one of the thousands of women and girls who were abducted and subjected to horrific sexual abuse.

The Tax Campaign invited supporters to donate to support Juliana and allow women like her to access opportunities for economic independence: to work and educate their families, to use health services and importantly, to vitally contribute to the development of their precious country.



## MILK Campaign

Magdalena & Kirsty conversation \$3152



For our 2022 MILK campaign, Dr Kirsty Sword Gusmão and Dr Magdalena Whoolery joined Alola Australia Board member Jacky Mandelbaum for an online conversation about the dangerous influence of milk formula companies in Timor-Leste.

On a visit to Timor-Leste, Kirsty was shocked to see the abundance of formula milks being marketed and sold in local supermarkets. A report from UNICEF and the World Health Organisation highlighted that, throughout the world, formula milk marketing continues to be 'pervasive, personalised and powerful.'

Global rates of breastfeeding, particularly exclusive breastfeeding, have improved modestly over the last 20 years, while sales of formula milk have almost doubled in roughly the same time. Meanwhile, in Timor-Leste, child malnutrition and stunting continue to be a significant concern, with nearly 50% of children showing stunting, impeding their opportunities for optimal growth and development. Decades of research show that breastfeeding, where it is possible, is the best possible source of nutrition for babies and supports the health of mothers.

Kirsty and Magdalena discussed these important issues and shared the important work that Fundasaun Alola is undertaking to strengthen better infant nutrition in Timor-Leste and promote exclusive breastfeeding.

## Christmas Campaign

Mobile library, education

\$32,251

Our Christmas Campaign highlighted that girls are the pillar of stable, prosperous, and strong countries around the world. History demonstrates that educating girls raises economic productivity, empowers social and political contributions and reduces poverty, while lowering infant and maternal mortality.

Educated girls in Timor-Leste have a positive impact on agricultural production, the resilience of communities to natural disaster and critically, gender equality. Women and girls who can benefit from greater gender equality - fuelled by their education - take more of a leadership role in decisions-making, shaping stronger families, communities and the nation.

Campaign Total \$139,577

**Alola Australia Limited**

ABN 20 132 084 050

Financial report

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Alola Australia Limited  
ABN 20 132 084 050  
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Directors

N. Bluett-Boyd  
M. Bohan, Co-Chair  
N. Gurr  
B. Guterres (Resigned 12 December 2022)  
S. Lavender  
J. Mandelbaum  
N. Savin  
H. Skinner, Co-Chair  
H. Wallace (Appointed 12. December 2022)

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

Your directors submit their special purpose financial report for the year ended 31 December 2022.

#### 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 & 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
- Pro bono mentor NFP CEOs
- Significant leadership and social change experience
- Board of Trustees, Glennen Charitable Foundation

#### Special responsibilities

Co- Chair

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- current)
- 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

#### Special responsibilities

Advocacy

Fundraising

B Guterres

Qualifications

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

- Relevant Experience/Roles
- Marketing, communications and fundraising experience in the NFP sector

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- current)
- 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

- Senior Legal Counsel Alfred Health (2022 – current)
- General Counsel, Orygen (2020 – 2022)
- 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

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

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

## Special responsibilities

Co-Chair

Member Audit and Risk Management Committee

H. Wallace

## Qualifications

Bachelor of Nursing (Deakin)

Grad Dip Midwifery (La Trobe)

MPH (Charles Darwin)

PhD (La Trobe)

## Relevant Experience/Roles

- Registered Nurse & Midwife
- Committee Member Australian College of Midwives Vic Branch (2017-2019)
- Committee Member Geelong-Viqueque Friendship Schools (2019 – current)
- Research partnerships with Marie Stopes Timor-Leste (2013-2019)

## Directors' Meetings

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

2022 Directors' meetings		
Director	Number eligible to attend	Number Attended
N. Bluett-Boyd	7	7
M. Bohan, Co-Chair	7	7
N. Gurr	7	5
B. Guterres	7	4
S. Lavender	7	5

J. Mandelbaum	7	4
N. Savin	7	7
H. Skinner, Co-Chair	7	7
H. Wallace	1	1

#### 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 2022 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 2022 there were 20 members of the company.

Auditor's independence declaration

The auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 31 December 2022 has been received and can be found on page 7.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



H Skinner  
Co- Chair  
Melbourne, 2 April 2023



M Bohan  
Co-Chair

## 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 2022, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* or any applicable code of professional conduct.



PKF



Steven Bradby  
Partner  
Melbourne, 2 April 2023



Alola Australia Limited  
 ABN 20 132 084 050  
 Statement of Surplus or Deficit and Other Comprehensive Income  
 For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Note		
Revenue		
Advocacy	200	19,450
Breast cancer support	18,600	3,200
Economic Empowerment	600	2,625
Education	109,100	126,890
Scholarships	89,882	37,166
Maternal & Child Health	14,900	18,895
Flood Appeal	-	30,000
Handcrafts	140	-
Gifts and donations - untied	65,924	80,928
Interest income	2	5
Total revenue	<u>299,348</u>	<u>319,159</u>
Expenses		
Overheads and campaign expenses		
Administration support	9,985	13,574
Audit fee	2,800	2,800
Bank fees and charges	2,205	2,413
Event and campaign expenses	-	-
Insurance expense	1,148	1,157
Other expenses	2,356	2,308
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>18,494</u>	<u>22,252</u>
Disbursement to Fundasaun Alola	<u>282,609</u>	<u>306,066</u>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>282,609</u>	<u>306,066</u>
Total expenses / disbursement to Fundasaun Alola	<u>301,103</u>	<u>328,318</u>
Surplus / (deficit) before income tax expense	(1,755)	(9,159)
Income tax expense	2	-
Operating surplus / deficit for the year	5	(9,159)
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total accumulated losses/comprehensive income for the year	<u>(1,755)</u>	<u>(9,159)</u>

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 2022

	Note	2022	2021
ASSETS		\$	\$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	1(b)	6,972	8,590
GST receivable		712	849
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>7,684</b>	<b>9,439</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>7,684</b>	<b>9,439</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus		7,684	9,439
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>7,684</b>	<b>9,439</b>

Statement of Changes in Equity  
 For the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Equity at the beginning of the year	9,439	18,598
Total comprehensive income for the year	(1,755)	(9,159)
Equity at the end of the year	<b>7,684</b>	<b>9,439</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 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts in the form of donations and fundraising		299,348	319,159
Payment of expenses / disbursements		300,966	326,677
Net cash flow from operating activities	1(a)	<u>(1,618)</u>	<u>(7,518)</u>
Cash at beginning of financial year		8,590	16,108
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		<u>(1,618)</u>	<u>(7,518)</u>
Cash at end of financial year		<u><u>6,972</u></u>	<u><u>8,590</u></u>
(a) Reconciliation of net cash flow from operating activities with operating surplus:			
Operating surplus		(1,755)	(9,159)
Increase in payables / decrease in receivables		137	1,641
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>(1,618)</u>	<u>(7,518)</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. 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 2022.

### *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

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 (2022: \$1,746) 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 requirements of Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, 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 2022 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

H Skinner  
Director

Melbourne, 2 April 2023

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

### *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 2022, 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 2022 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, 2 April 2023



Steven Bradby  
Partner