

Chairperson's Report 2016/ 2017 Financial Year

FONAI is volunteer-run registered Australian charity with the goal of removing financial barriers for severely disadvantaged Nepalese young people to access education &/or vocational training following their successful completion of Year 10.

We work closely with our South Australian supporters, the Rotary Clubs of Brownhill Creek & Blackwood, Friends of Pulteney Grammar School as well as our International supporters, the Children's Future Fund in Germany & the Mission for Modern Social Development, Nepal to achieve this goal.

2016/17 has been a year of growth & change for Friends of Nepal- Adelaide Inc (FONAI.) Initially our organisation supported fundraising for the building of a school at Deprived Women & Children's Upliftment Centre (DMUK) & in the establishment of an education sponsorship program for children living at the centre to attend the school. We worked closely with Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) Project #25 2012/13 & DMUK management to achieve these goals & continued our support until project was finally completed in February 2016.

2016 saw a change in direction for our group as a need for funding continuing education opportunities for older children who had left DMUK was identified during one of our member's visits to Nepal.

The decision was made to finalise the DMUK sponsorship program & replace it with an education scholarship program – FONAI Education Scholarship (FES) for 9 students who had recently left DMUK, to enable them to complete either year 11 or 12 of high school or post- secondary studies.

2016 Strategic Plan

Our 2016 FES program annual review identified five primary goals for FONAI.

1. to expand the committee & obtain registered charity status for the group.
2. to reaffirm our mission, values & priorities as a group.
3. to identify & implement more sustainable management & implementation of the program in Nepal & ensure compliance with all authorities.
4. to establish & launch the new Education Scholarship Program. (FES)
5. to update our website.

Outcomes from 2016 strategic plan.

1. In May 2016 FONAI achieved registered charity status & expanded the committee to the current 7 members.
2. We reaffirmed our goals & values & maintained priority of supporting recent graduates from DMUK.
3. We developed & implemented the new FES scholarship program in collaboration with our Education Scholarship Manager & key stakeholders in May 2016. We offered scholarships to 9 students, 5 to complete year 11 & 12 & 4 to complete post- secondary studies including law, accounting & IT.
4. The FES program was officially launched in Nepal in July 2016 & in Australia in August 2016.
5. A website designer was employed to update the website.

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2017 Strategic Plan

Our 2017 FES program annual review identified five primary goals for FONAI.

1. To identify & implement changes in management structure of the FES program to ensure we were in compliance with Nepalese regulations for foreign NGO's working in Nepal.
2. To reaffirm our mission, values & priorities.
3. To clarify & simplify scholarship external & internal documents for existing, continuing & new students.
4. To formalise funding agreements with key stakeholders.
5. To identify more sustainable living options for students
6. To limit scholarship students to total of 9 for 2017/18

Outcomes from 2017 strategic plan.

1. In May 2017 FONAI officially partnered with Nepal NGO – Mission for Modern Social Development Nepal (MMSDN) to manage FES program in compliance with all regulations.
2. MOU was signed, application for approval successfully lodged with Nepal Dept of Social Justice, bank account opened & MMSDN appointed secretary Pursottan Dahal as coordinator of the program. Bhim Kumar, chairperson of this NGO, remains FES manager & advisor to FONAI.
3. Shared MMSDN/FONAI office space opened July 2017.
4. We reaffirmed our goals & values but removed the priority for allocation of scholarships to recent graduates from DMUK.
5. We clarified & simplified all scholarship documents.
6. In May/June 2017 we offered 7 scholarships, 6 returning & 1 new student.
7. In July, on recommendation of our manager & coordinator we offered 2 additional Year 11 scholarships.
8. In August we requested our manager & coordinator investigate alternative living options for students as hostel living is not only a big drain on our finances, but also not recommended as the having the best outcomes for already disadvantaged students.
9. A formal funding agreements was signed with Children's Future Fund in August 2017.

Partnerships & Key Stakeholders.

FONAI has been very fortunate in forming short & long term partnerships to assist us in our work. We enjoy strong support from the Rotary Clubs of Brownhill Creek, Blackwood & Mobilong in S.A. FONAI has also gratefully received support from the Friends of Pulteney Grammar School. This support has been in collection & shipment of earthquake relief goods, hosting of fundraising events, provision of meeting rooms & most recently in the generous donation of over \$15,000 to our program.

In 2016 we partnered with the Children's Future Fund, a small social justice NGO in Germany, who currently are paying all course costs for 4 of our students. We signed a funding agreement with CFF in August 2017.

In 2017 we partnered with Mission for Modern Social Development Nepal. Without this partnership we would not have been able to continue to offer scholarships in the rapidly changing NGO landscape in Nepal. MMSDN kindly allow us to use their office space rent free for scholarship interviews & student meetings.

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Monitoring the program.

A very strong aspect of our program is the regular visits to Nepal by our committee members who liaise with our manager Bhim Kumar & coordinator Pursottan Dahal, to oversee & monitor the program.

These visits are self - funded involving great expense & many, many hours of unseen work! Their duties include meeting with all students, school principals & hostel & university management to discuss student well being, participation & progress in their courses & living places. There have been several monitoring and evaluation visits to our project this year and much has been learned in consultation with our partners about the effectiveness of the program.

I want to acknowledge the heavy workload & commitment of our Nepalese manager, Bhim Kumar, & coordinator Pursottan Dahal, who take responsibility for the daily operations of the program, for their tireless work liaising with & supporting students, monitoring the use of funds, evaluating the effectiveness of the program & reporting to the board with frank and fearless advice.

Committee member visits 2016/17.

In 2016 committee members visited Nepal a total of 3 times – May, July & December

In 2017 committee members visited in February, May/June & another visit is scheduled for December.

Scholarship Student Report.

- Despite the many challenges we face in implementing a program in a developing country, we are pleased to report a very high success rate for the nine (9) original students on the program.
- Of the five (5) students completing Year 11 & 12, 4 were successful, one (1) has moved into Year 12 & two (2) are awaiting their Year 12 results (Sep 2017) & have already begun further study.
- One (1) elected not to undertake further study at this time & has returned to his village.
- One (1) student was expelled from the program in Sep 2016.
- Of the original four (4) students who were completing tertiary studies in law, accounting & IT, two (2) have continued successfully into second year, one (1) is still currently completing first year (Sep 2017) & one (1) is exploring overseas study options & has exited the program.
- In May 2017 we renewed four (4) existing scholarships, offered two (2) more skill based scholarships for the recent school leavers – Diploma in Fashion Design & tailoring classes & Hospitality studies - cooking & waiting classes & 3 new scholarships for students to complete Years 11 & 12 specialising in science & business studies.
- The total # of scholarships for 2017/18 is capped at nine (9.) Four (4) senior high school & five (5) post - secondary scholarships.

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2016/17 Financial Income

Money in bank as of 30/6/17 \$21,979.90

1. Sponsorship Program \$8,650.00

We had 29 individual sponsors in 2016/17.

In 2016 /17 we increased our annual sponsorship fee from \$300 to \$500.

2. Fund Raising & Donations \$27,694.71

We held over seven (7) fundraising events. These included our Gala Dinner/Auction, trash & treasure, film & jewellery nights, sale of marmalade jam, donation jars at cafes & a stall at the Rotary Club of Blackwood Fair. Our most successful fundraiser was the Annual Gala Dinner where we raised over \$7,000.

FONAI enjoys widespread community support & received many incidental & generous donations over this financial year.

Major donors were Friends of Pulteney \$15618.38 & Rotary World Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) \$2200.00.

Expenditure – transfers to Nepal 2017/17

Item	Amount
Scholarship Program	\$25,600
DRMIS school sponsorship program – final payment	\$2400

% Breakdown of expenditure

Scholarship Program	Percentage of funding
Living & accommodation costs for the students	70%
Course fees & associated costs, uniforms, books etc	25%
Medical Expenses	5%

Administrative costs. \$2,360.00

FONAI manages to keep administration costs to a minimum due to the generosity of it's many volunteers.

Item	Amount
Insurance	\$865.31
Website set up	\$1500

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2017/18 projected expenses.

Scholarship Program	Amount
Living costs for the students	\$4,500
Course fees & associated costs, uniforms, books etc	\$7,000 (excludes fees paid by CFF)
Medical Expenses	\$2,000
Accommodation Costs	\$13,500
Administration	\$2000
TOTAL	\$29,000

Moving forward

The committee has identified the following areas as priorities for 2017/18 financial year.

Scholarship Program (FES)

- securing safe, suitable & affordable shared house accommodation for the students
- supporting girls to independent living
- developing culture where goal is to move away from total dependence on foreign donors
- Identifying & establish a mentor support group for the students to assist:
 - transition from school to adult environment
 - prepare for & find part time work
 - to move to taking full responsibility managing time, commitments & money etc

Sponsorship Funding

- Securing more sponsors for scholarship support

Professional Development

- providing professional development opportunities for our Nepalese staff to improve communication & accounting skills

Thankyou to the hardworking committee.

The committee members have worked very hard over the past 12 months, donating many hours to crystallise our priorities & our goals and actions, and I would like to thank them for their commitment to a task which has not always an easy process. We are all very proud of the success of this program.

Denise Roscrow Chairperson Friends of Nepal- Adelaide Inc

August 21 2017

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