



1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017

ANNUAL REPORT*

**GGC Volunteers Limited
ABN: 69 600 540 976**



*Modified to upload to website

Our mission

In the pursuit of our charitable goals of advancing health, education and public and social welfare, GGC Volunteers Limited (GGC) prepares volunteers and student groups to assist small non-government organisation(s) working with disabled, orphaned or disadvantaged children in Vietnam – specifically the organisation GGC Vietnam, based in Da Nang, which GGC aims to support using a capacity building model.

Our vision

Through our support of GGC Vietnam, outcomes for disabled children and their extended families within the program will improve through the consistent and ongoing provision of undergraduate students, dedicated volunteers, and trained professionals able to use their knowledge and skills to respond to the needs of the beneficiaries of the service. We aim long term to support the dignity, abilities and standing of the beneficiaries of the program within their communities by encouraging their participation in a more accepting and understanding society.

Our History

In 2013-2014, the founding member of GGC, Sandra Downes, began offering support and assistance to founding members of GGC Vietnam (then Care and Share Volunteers) to enable them to work with disabled children within the orphanage system in Da Nang Vietnam.

To provide a legitimate and organised structure to this support, GGC was registered as a public company limited by guarantee with not-for-profit clauses on 4 July 2014 and it subsequently became charity registered by Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) on 4 December 2015, backdated to 9 July 2014. Its charity sub-types are to advance health, education and public and social welfare.

GGC Vietnam is an entity separate from GGC Volunteers Ltd, and the two maintain distinct organisational and financial structures including staffing, roles and responsibilities.

GGC markets for, and prepares suitable volunteers and University Student Placements to achieve the charitable purpose of supporting children, families and communities within the GGC Vietnam program.

Volunteers are provided for the purpose of basic care, health and hygiene support, socialisation and education of able-bodied children, and to improve the health, hygiene, education and developmental abilities of children with a disability. They achieve this by assisting and educating the Vietnamese Physiotherapist and Director of GGC Vietnam, Mr Van Phuc Nguyen, and his staff.

GGC has applied for and been granted a three-year approval to operate in Vietnam by the People's Aid Organising Committee (PACCOM) of the Vietnamese Government, with whom we have a Memorandum of Understanding. GGC submits 6-monthly reports to PACCOM on its activities in support of GGC Vietnam. Renewal of this approval is currently in progress and completion is due prior to December 2017. GGC has approval to support activities within the Da Nang region, and in June 2017, it was granted approval to extend the scope of our activities into the Quang Nam region.

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Physiotherapy students teaching a child with disabilities in the orphanage system how to grasp.



Encouraging Family Centred Practice where families are fully involved in expressing and prioritizing the needs of their children, and work in partnership with the undergraduate student professionals to achieve these goals.

ABOUT US

GGC Volunteers Limited is a small charity run entirely by its directors. We are three experienced international volunteers with a shared passion for improving the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves in developing countries.

For the first 6 months of this reporting period we were joined by a fourth Director, who stepped down due to work commitments at our last AGM. For the last 6 months, we have had stable, experienced governance.

Our Board shares a desire to promote purposeful and useful assistance through volunteering, and to avoid 'voluntourism'.

Whilst we are not a fundraising body, we work mindfully to limit our administrative costs, so that fees charged to volunteers sent to Vietnam are affordable and readily justified.

GGC Volunteers Limited Board members

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Sandra Downes	Chairperson and Managing Director	December 2014-ongoing
Benita Mayze	Treasurer	January 2016-ongoing
John Quilty	Secretary	December 2014-ongoing

OUR PEOPLE



DIRECTORS OF GGC VOLUNTEERS LIMITED
From Left: Sandra Downes, John Quilty, Benita
Mayze

Managing Director, Chairman and Public Officer: Sandra Gay Downes

Ms Downes is the primary contact between GGC and GGC Vietnam and runs the daily operations of GGC. These operations include marketing, administration, preparation and placement of university students and individual volunteers, and liaison between GGC and GGC Vietnam.

Ms Downes is a founding Director of GGC. She established the organisation to foster humanitarian aid by securing and posting volunteers to work on improving the health, education, social and physical wellbeing of children in Vietnam. At the same time GGC assists the development and sustainability of GGC Vietnam as a Vietnamese social entity.

Director, Secretary: John Austin Quilty

Mr Quilty as secretary assists in preparation for and running of GGC Board meetings, handles correspondence, and is the representative for investigating and acquiring appropriate Insurance. As a long-term volunteer, philanthropist and director of infrastructure projects in developing countries, Mr Quilty is an important source of knowledge and experience for the operation and functions of GGC.

Director: Benita Mayze

Ms Mayze is the treasurer of GGC and acts as assistant to the Managing Director in the daily functions of GGC. As a special needs teacher, she acts as a consultant to the English socialisation program run by GGC Vietnam.

All Directors and Office Bearers work in a voluntary capacity.

OUR SUPPORTERS

GGC do not participate in any form of organised fundraising to support the GGC Vietnam program. Instead, our philosophy is to provide support through the provision of care and the sharing of knowledge and skills.

GGC Volunteers Limited is fortunate to have the ongoing support of a number of Australian Universities who send their students each year to work as volunteers supporting the beneficiaries of the program, whilst attending to the academic and learning goals set by their Universities. We have a core of individual volunteers who have attended our program more than once and to whom we are most grateful.

GGC considers that each and every volunteer and student to the program in Vietnam is a valued supporter.

STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

GGC Volunteers Limited is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and is classified as a small charity.

Its governing document is its constitution, which reflects the objects of advancing the social and public welfare, health and education of the children within the Programs it supports in Vietnam by undertaking any or all of the following:

- (a) Improve the developmental outcomes of disabled children within orphanages, schools, clinics and charities.
- (b) Improve the health and hygiene of orphaned, disadvantaged and disabled children by identifying and remediating specific issues, and by education of families and staff.
- (c) Provide vocational training, including the teaching of conversational English and communication strategies, to disadvantaged and disabled children to assist those children in developing knowledge and skills that will improve their future employment prospects.
- (d) To capacity build within the organisations GGC Volunteers Limited support, who have a shared charitable purpose in advancing the Social and public welfare, health and education of the children in their Programs.
- (e) Secure, prepare and provide both individual volunteers and student groups (including those with professional knowledge and skill sets) to achieve the objects listed at sub-sections "a" to "d" above, using predominantly online strategies and targeted marketing.

Working toward these objects, the GGC Board meets regularly to oversee management issues and it operates according to a documented structure and set allocation of duties (see "Our People", p6).



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Welcome to all Directors, interested parties and supporters of GGC Volunteers Limited.

I'd firstly like to thank GGC Vietnam, which despite a huge increase in workload with all the organisation and structural changes that incurs, have excelled in organising and providing a service that allows the beneficiaries of its program to have access to supports that would otherwise be absent in their lives. Its dedication to the children, their families, and the staff of the facilities is an example of selflessness, with all staff still attending the children daily, even in times where there are no volunteers or student groups present. The support it gives its volunteers is universally praised by those returning from Vietnam.

To my fellow Board members, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your hard work and support throughout the year.

Activities and Achievements 2016-2017

University Groups

From our first year of University groups, where we prepared just two groups annually, this increased to eight groups attending for 5 week placements in the financial year of 2016-2017. This represented a total number of 48 students, and six full time educator/supervisors, plus four-part time, job share educators/University representatives.

GGC Vietnam also hosted one group of four students on a global, community engagement model of three weeks with no supervisor, and two groups of 8 students each, with one university representative on global electives for two weeks.

In addition, eleven volunteers attended for varying periods of placement not less than two weeks in duration.

Directly contacting individual schools at Universities on an annual basis to fill any vacant blocks for upcoming years has been very successful, with a change in the professional demographic of those schools attending. Initially, the University schools attracted were undergraduate physiotherapy only. GGC Vietnam is now fortunate to host schools and students from Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy. This has been a stated goal of GGC Volunteers that we are proud to have facilitated.

In consideration of the needs of the beneficiaries of our program, we determined that diversity in profession, gender and Universities represented the best model possible to support the complex needs of the children with a disability. Those needs include communication, feeding, hand skills, handwriting, learning, socialisation, and movement skills across a vast number of condition types and severities. Diversity in the knowledge and skills provided represents the best model of care for the children in the program.

We are also excited to support the overlapping of schools from different Universities and undergraduate professions who attend in the same time frame. This again provides to the children the opportunity to receive support in a more multidisciplinary or transdisciplinary model. In this past period, we have facilitated the overlapping of six groups across physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy.

Progress toward charitable goals

Reviewing progress towards achieving and supporting our charitable purpose, we consider that we have continued to satisfy the goals we initially set for our charity. This included obtaining charity status initially, and then successfully targeting those groups that best support the complex needs of the children and capacity building opportunities for GGC Vietnam.

Recently, as Managing Director, I have been giving thought to the achievement of future goals. Primary amongst these is to support GGC Vietnam in achieving long term sustainability.

As a Board, we have always reflected upon the need of GGC Vietnam to be sustainable within its own right and have discussed the ways this may be achieved.

In the last 6 months, I have developed procedures and templates to support the increased involvement of GGC Vietnam in the preparation of volunteers and groups. It is envisaged that the Managing Director's role will continue to oversee all initial communications, approval of applicants and collation of initial documentation, whilst a staff member of GGC Vietnam will collate final information. This process is slowly being embedded, with the Managing Director continuing in an advisory role until this process is proven efficient and within the capabilities of GGC Vietnam.

On current estimates, it is determined that the next financial year should be successful in terms of numbers, notwithstanding that two university Groups have pulled out of placements in the second half of 2017 (citing lack of internal support for funding of University supervision, and lack of student numbers).

In 2018 (January to December), on current bookings, at least 11 groups have confirmed, and no further marketing is being undertaken at this time.

PACCOM renewal in Vietnam

In December 2017, our three-yearly PACCOM renewal in Vietnam is due. In June 2017, it was a great achievement to obtain an extension of our activities from Da Nang, to include the Quang Nam Province. This will embrace activities of GGC Vietnam in the city and neighbourhood of Tam Ky.

All documentation relevant to the renewal has been completed and submitted, and we are currently awaiting approval of the renewal application. A successful application will allow for three years' approval for GGC Volunteers to continue to support GGC Vietnam by sending volunteers and students to their program.

Succession Planning for Directors of GGC Volunteers

Whilst this isn't a stated goal in our strategic planning, maintaining long term stable governance is an important topic of discussion at Board Meetings. To this end, discussion has centred on making the role of Managing Director a more sensible proposition for a voluntary worker. Future re-allocation of duties has been discussed and potential volunteer staff have been approached to take on Directorships and administrative roles from the next AGM in January 2018.

Aims and Directions

Operational Costs

As a small charity, we are constrained by our current Board agreement to refrain from being a fundraising body and by our wish to keep our volunteer/student costs reasonable and attractive to volunteers.

Operational costs in the last financial year were 11.3%, and we are eager to continue to be a charity that is able to represent sensible governance and value, whilst still meeting the legitimate costs of operation.

Seed Grants

Our small operational costs have allowed us to participate in the provision of yearly seed grants to approved projects in Vietnam. GGC liaises with GGC Vietnam, which identifies and prioritizes projects that are within our charitable sub-types of health, education and public and social welfare.

During the financial year 1st July, 2016 to 30th June, 2017 GGC Volunteers have supported the following projects in Vietnam:

- Providing computers, tables, chairs and printers to the students of Hoa Bac School (for school children, and for the use of the community for education purposes)
- Supplying 3 air mattresses and medication to Social Support Centre (prevention and management of pressure areas in the severely disabled and bedridden)
- Assisting CHIA in the everyday running expenses of their POD facility (facilitating small group education and movement skills for children with disabilities)

- Providing transportation for families who would otherwise be unable to access Charity Clinic for physiotherapy treatment (access)
- Supply of medication to Red Cross Baby Orphanage (health)
- Granting of 2 education scholarships to students of Village of Hope (education)
- Funding the purchase of additional food for Da Nang Baby Orphanage (nutrition and health)
- Providing food and formula for the children who visit the Phu Ninh facility for therapy (nutrition and health)
- Supplying a bed for Tam Ky Baby Orphanage (positioning for child with disabilities)
- Construction of a safe covered Playground at Dioxin Centre (health, sport)
- Assisting GGC Vietnam with the everyday running of the Charity Clinic (to facilitate ongoing care and movement skills, group work for families)
- Repainting of a room at ADVOHO to be used by disabled children to learn vocation such as sewing
- Provide food for undernourished children attending Charity Clinic (nutrition and health)
- Construction of an outdoor shelter at Phu Ninh to provide a larger covered area for the children to use for therapy and eating (infrastructure to support functioning of rehabilitation program)
- Provide funding for medication for Social Support Centre (health)

GGC aim to continue philanthropic support of the beneficiaries of the GGC Vietnam program in the future and projects will be identified on a 6-monthly basis and presented to the Board for approval.

Volunteer Directions

We continue to target the support that represents the best opportunities for the children of the program. In September 2017, we are hosting the first group of “Teachers and Ladies who Care”. The members of this group have been invited to consider the educational aspects of the GGC Vietnam program, and to provide advice and planning for future activities that support socialisation skills, including activities that teach English as a second language.

Future Recruitment

There are encouraging signs regarding the longevity and health of the GGC program. New University enquiries have been received without active marketing. Furthermore, two Universities have incrementally increased either their student numbers, or numbers of groups attending per year.

Whilst we have supported the increase in student groups as a way of achieving our goals, ensuring sustainability of the support given to program recipients, an important role still exists for dedicated individual volunteers. With the proposed re-allocation of the Managing Directors tasks, it is hoped that in the future we can again work on such aspects of our charity as marketing and obtaining individual volunteers, that will further benefit program recipients.

Next year is looked forward to with enthusiasm. The Board of GGC Volunteers Limited is honoured to be part of an organisation that, from the seeds of a small idea, has grown to support hundreds of Vietnamese children and their families, including those children with disabilities who are impoverished or orphaned in Vietnam.

Sandra Downes, Managing Director

BAppSc Pty (CCHS) MPhy (UQ)



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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the purposes of brevity, statements of our financial activities have been provided to ACNC and can these be accessed by viewing GGC Volunteers Limited 2017 AIS at acnc.gov.au

This year saw GGC Volunteers Limited in the position of being able to carry out the core business of the charity and to also support a number of worthy projects in Vietnam that fall within the charitable subtypes of GGC Volunteers Limited. At the end of the financial year, GGC volunteers limited recorded a healthy account balance of \$41 268.89.

Our operating costs for this financial period were 11.3% of total income.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

GGC Volunteers Limited can only continue its support of the children, families and communities of Vietnam by sending volunteers and groups to the GGC Vietnam program. Through care, dedicated work, sharing of knowledge and skills and support of the Vietnam staff, volunteers find that they can make a difference with not much more than a strong will to be useful.

Please consider volunteering to support a program that exists entirely to be of service and to improve outcomes for children. By going to our website at ggcvolunteers.org you can find out a little more about the program and who you will be helping in Vietnam. In times where bad news and negativity abounds, volunteering to help others is an uplifting experience.

CONTACT US

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