



ROTARY AUSTRALIA WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE LTD

Frequently Asked Questions & Our Answers

Q. What is a RAWCS project?

- A. RAWCS has established the following Deductible Gift Recipients (DGRs)
1. **Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund** (ABN: 21 388 376 554) (RAOAF) to assist Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and the philanthropic community in Australia to respond to needs through humanitarian aid projects in overseas developing countries, as identified by searching the DFAT website.
RAOAF projects are required to have an Australian Rotary Club or District sponsor and an overseas partner.
 2. **Rotary Australia Benevolent Society** (ABN: 54 563 288 318) to assist Rotary Clubs Rotary Districts and the philanthropic community within Australia to respond to the benevolent needs within their own communities and to gain tax deductibility for donations made to their particular projects.

Q. What's in it for me, to use RAWCS for my International Service Project or Donations In Kind (DIK) to send my container of goods?

- A.
1. RAWCS has the experience to help you :
 - a. Develop your project;
 - b. Assess the needs of the intended recipients;
 - c. Set predetermined and agreed goals;
 - d. Ensure the project is sustainable.
 2. RAWCS has developed
 - a. Check lists for shipping containers of DIK goods to international destinations;
 - b. Systems to assist Rotary Clubs and Districts in the efficient management of registered projects;
 - c. Manuals for Project Managers, Team Leaders and Project Volunteers to guide each through the steps of carrying out a project.
 3. RAWCS will –
 - a. Give notification, to the various authorities, required before a team departs for overseas;
 - b. Ensure that Insurance Cover is in order for all Team Leaders and Project Volunteers.
 4. Registered projects are listed on the RAWCS website.
Rotarians from other Clubs, Districts and Regions will be aware of your project and can offer to work as volunteers or avoid duplication.
Your project may attract funding from Rotarians and the philanthropic community.

Q. I would like to assist with a registered project, as a Volunteer or with a Donation. What is the best way to go about this?

- A. All registered projects are listed on the RAWCS website, with information on those seeking partners and/or funds. Go to <http://www.rawcs.com.au/ProjectSearch.php>. A column next to each project shows whether they are seeking funds.

Another listing shows projects seeking partners. On-line Donations can be made to Projects with a DONATE NOW button.

Q. Are donations to RAWCS tax deductible?

A. Tax deductibility is **allowable** for gifts to –

1. RAOAF projects in those countries declared as ‘developing’ by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.
2. RABS is a public benevolent institution (PBI) with DGR status

Tax deductibility is **not allowed** for donations where the donor receives a benefit as a consequence of the donation.

Q. How are donations managed? Who is responsible for ensuring my donation reaches its intended destination?

A. **RAWCS** is an Australian Public Company run by Rotarians. The management and administration is subject to stringent corporate accountability.

RAWCS is committed to ensuring that all is managed, supported, supervised and recorded according to the guidelines set by ASIC and the Australian Tax Office.

Q. A member of our club has identified what she thinks is a worthy overseas project. We would like to look into this further, but how should we proceed?

A. Check the RAWCS website for information.

If you need help, send an email to info@rawcs.com.au. You will be referred to the relevant contact in your region who will explain the appropriate steps to be taken and help you through the process.

Q. Where do I find the RAWCS Forms, Manuals and RAWCS Documents?

A. On the RAWCS website – http://www.rawcs.com.au/forms_1.htm. This includes Manuals and Forms for Registration of Projects and Volunteers and for Progressive and Final Reporting.

Q. How do I register a Project?

The Project Registration Forms and Project Criteria, for both :

Rotary Overseas Aid Fund Projects, or

Rotary Australia Benevolent Society Projects

are available in both pdf and word format on the webpage **RAWCS Forms, Manuals and RAWCS Documents** (see above).

To ensure your Project fulfils the requirements, read the Criteria, which is available, either as a stand-alone document, or as the last four pages of the Project Registration Form to ensure your Project fulfils the requirements.

1. Complete all sections of the Project Registration Form.
2. Collect the necessary signatures.
3. Scan and email the completed form to your District RAWCS Chairman, for on-forwarding to the Regional Coordinator.
4. Pay the \$50.00 Registration Fee by Electronic Funds Transfer to the bank account nominated by your Regional Coordinator or by cheque to the address that will be provided by your Regional Coordinator.

Q. Why is so much detail required in the Project Registration Form?

- A.
1. To minimise duplication of materials and teams to the same destination;
 2. To confirm sustainability of the project and its benefits.

- Q. Why are so many signatures required on the Project Registration Form?**
- A. 1. To ensure that the Sponsor and Partner/s understands and accepts responsibility for the project;
2. To inform District Governors of the Sponsor and Partner Clubs that a project is planned.
- Q. Who is responsible for the Management of a Registered Project?**
- A. The Sponsor Rotary Club is required to appoint a Project Manager and a Management Committee of at least three persons, including the Project Manager, who will be responsible for the Project, reporting to the Club Board, during the life of the Project.
- Q. What is the role of the Project Manager?**
- A. It is the Project Manager's name which appears on the list of projects on the **RAWCS** website as the contact for the project.
The Project Manager is required to ensure that the funding raised is applied to the project and to submit periodic reports on the progress of the project.
Payments are authorised by the Project Manager and paid, to the extent that funds are available for the project, in the Regional (for RAOAF) or the National (for RABS) Accounts.
- Q. Our club's project has been registered and we have a team of volunteers travelling overseas shortly. What forms need to be filled out?**
- A. All volunteers need to fill out a Volunteer Agreement Form, no less than three weeks before departure. The form can be viewed and downloaded from our website - http://www.rawcs.com.au/forms_1.htm
- Q. Are there specific countries that RAWCS provides assistance to?**
- A. Only a few countries are discouraged, for safety reasons. RAWCS offers a "World Community Service". Countries that have been helped recently include: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Tibet, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Uganda, Vanuatu, Vietnam, West Timor, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Q. Can I see examples of completed RAWCS projects?**
- A. Yes. Details on many of the excellent completed projects can be seen at http://www.rawcs.com.au/RAWCSPrograms_current.htm
- Q. What does RAM stand for?**
- A. RAM is Rotarians Against Malaria in Australia and one of the key four programs of RAWCS. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2010 alone there were over 30 million malaria cases and 42,000 deaths.
RAM has the following objective: "The prevention of mortality, and a reduction in morbidity and social and economic loss caused by malaria through a progressive improvement and strengthening of local and national capabilities in malaria control".
Information on how you can help can be found at http://www.rawcs.com.au/RAWCSPrograms_malaria.htm

Q. What does SSWSL stand for?

A. Safe Sanitation and Water Saves Lives (SSWSL) is one of the key four programs of RAWCS, and works to supply clean water to desperate people in developing countries through a planned system of water catchment, storage and reticulation.

Further information is available at

http://www.rawcs.com.au/RAWCSPrograms_swsl.htm

Q. What does DIK stand for?

A. Donations In Kind (DIK) is one of the key four programs of RAWCS. It provides central coordination points for the storage, packing and distribution of donated goods.

Further information is available at http://www.rawcs.com.au/RAWCSPrograms_dik.htm

Q. Are there guidelines available for collecting goods to send overseas?

A. Yes. Advice relating to educational goods; hospital equipment and pharmaceuticals and medical supplies can be found at

http://www.rawcs.com.au/RAWCSPrograms_guide-dik.htm

Q. Why is “Project Volunteers” listed as one of the key programs of RAWCS?

A. Volunteers are the lifeblood of RAWCS Projects. Being a RAWCS Volunteer can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life; you can make new friends in other countries and you will form very close bonds with your team members. There are any number of projects needing your help and time. Read more on our website -

http://www.rawcs.com.au/RAWCSPrograms_volunteer.htm

Q. Who should I contact with a query regarding RAWCS?

A. On the RAWCS website www.rawcs.com.au there is a form for you to fill in and submit, or for general enquiries call +61 02 8833 8317 or email info@rawcs.com.au

You can never do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Scan here to go to the RAWCS website

