

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Rotary District 9675 Vocational Training Team Leader Tonga: Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Project 2022-23

A Vocational Training Team (VTT) offers a hands-on approach to Vocational Service. In VTTs, groups of professionals travel either to learn more about his/her vocation or to train local professionals about a particular field. A VTT helps create sustainable change by strengthening the knowledge and skills of individuals and communities, thereby improving his/her capacity to serve. In addition to experiencing a new culture and fostering global connections, Rotarians participating in a Vocational Training Team have the opportunity to make an impact long after his/her travels and the project concludes.

Background:

Rotary Vocational Training Teams (VTTs) are groups of professionals who are funded by Rotary to travel abroad to train local professionals in a particular field and to learn more about his/her own area/s of expertise.

This project is an initiative of Rotary District 9675 which covers the Sydney CBD, Western Sydney, Sutherland, MacArthur, and Illawarra regions of New South Wales. The project will extend the existing close relationships Rotary has with seven (7) NSW Emergency Service Organisations through Rotary's NSW Emergency Services Community Awards (RESCA) and the recently established Australian Rotary Health, PhD Research Scholarship investigating Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in Emergency Services personnel.

It will also develop relationships with Rotary Districts 9510 (South Australia) and 9920 (New Zealand / Tonga).

Goals:

1. Learn about the types of emergencies facing Pacific Island Nations and to study the impact of recent emergencies and natural disasters in Tonga.
2. Facilitate the training of Tonga (and possibly other Pacific Island nations) emergency services professionals in the latest thinking, best practices for disaster/emergency preparedness and current training needs and development.
3. Identify and formalise a sustainable exchange program to address current and future needs.

Team Composition:

The Australian District 9675 Team will comprise of a Rotarian as Team Leader and seven representatives from the following Emergency Services Agencies:

- Fire and Rescue NSW
- Marine Rescue NSW
- Surf Life Saving NSW
- NSW Ambulance
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- NSW State Emergency Service
- NSW Volunteer Rescue Association

It will also include a member of South Australian Fire Service.

An incoming team from Tonga, will be selected from Tonga Fire and Emergency Services and relevant partnered agencies. The Australian District 9675 Team Leader will be expected to work and assist the Tongan team as necessary to support the training programs, the program content, itinerary, travel, Rotary content and support.

Proposed Schedule:

Subject to COVID and travel arrangements the VTT is being planned/proposed for March/April 2022/23

The Australian District 9675 Team is expected to spend approx. 3 to 4 weeks in Tonga to deliver the training program and content for the VTT. It is proposed that the Tongan Team will spend about the same time in Australia, where its planned they will receive training in both NSW and SA.

The in-country exchanges are being aimed to occur to allow members of the teams to attend the District Conferences for D9675 (usually in March) and D9510 (usually in April).

Expenses:

Rotary will cover travel and accommodation costs.

Role

The objective of this project is to help build Emergency and Disaster Preparedness capacities for Tonga and possibly other Pacific Nation countries. A multi-agency (i.e., Tonga Government Agencies plus private sector agencies) approach will be used to customise and address the identified training needs which should include Nationally Accredited Training units from the Emergency Services Training Package.

Team members will conduct a series of workshops, training sessions that will focus on planning and the operational/practical skills to be used when dealing with localised emergency situations such as road accidents, rescues, plus, when responding to mass disasters such as cyclones or earthquakes.

The Rotarian Team Leader will be responsible for being a member on the panel selecting, training, and leading a team of emergency service personnel who will deliver subject matter, expertise and organisational capacity to partner agencies in Tonga. The Team Leader will be pivotal in organising the team's training deliverables, establishing and maintaining productivity relationships with key stakeholders – including the Rotary content and social activities.

The Team Leader will be responsible for coordinating such visits and any other relevant activities that benefit the VTT or as requested by the Emergency Service Agencies, Rotary District Governors and the District 9675 VTT Committee.

The Team Leader will also be responsible for providing reports and delivery of presentations to partnered agencies, the Rotary Districts, the VTT Committee and project stakeholders.

Selection Process

The team leader will be selected via a merit-based selection process open to applications from Rotarians who are members of Rotary District 9675.

Applicants will need to provide:

1. an Expression of Interest (no more than 2000 words) that addresses the Selection Criteria (below),
2. a copy of his/her current Resume; and
3. the names and contacts details of **two (2) referees** (one of these should be his/her current Club President).

4. Any leave required to be taken by the Rotarian Team Leader from his/her employer is his/her own responsibility. Rotarians taking leave for the purposes of the VTT must provide confirmation of leave approval, with his/her application.

The contact officers, for any questions/queries regarding:

- **Technical criteria** – Superintendent Brian Graham, NSW Rural Fire Services; Mobile 0407 216 835; brian.graham@rfs.nsw.gov.au;
- **Rotary criteria** - Dorothy – Dot - Hennessy OAM: [Mobile 0412 120 314](tel:0412120314); dothennessy@gmail.com;

Applications are to be lodged with PDG Graham Wilson, by 5pm Friday 6 August 2021. Graham Wilson graham@ghwilson.id.au

Selection Criteria

Essential

1. Must be a Rotary member of District 9675 and have the support of his/her Club President.
2. Must have extensive and sound general knowledge about Rotary its areas of focus and be able to assist in developing a Global Grant.
3. Must have demonstrated leadership/management experience and have had experience in a training environment.
4. Must be able to develop and foster productive and collaborative partnerships, that ensure goals are met.
5. Must possess a valid passport, be eligible to obtain all required travel documents.
6. Must be generally fit and healthy and have had or be prepared to have any necessary inoculations.
7. Must be prepared to work flexible hours which may include evenings and weekends.
8. Must be prepared to travel to Tonga for up to four weeks and support the Tongan Team when it returns to Australia.
9. Must be a good “team player” and demonstrated the ability to work with colleagues in proximity for extended periods.
10. Must have the ability to write meaningful report/s and make presentation/s about the exchange.
11. Must be socially adaptable and be accepting of cultural differences.
12. Must be prepared to act as an “ambassador” representing his/her country, Rotary International and his/her family.

Desirable

1. Demonstrated “Service Above Self”. For example, service in more than one Emergency Service Agency, Surf Life Saving, Scouts/Guides, church, schools, sport, children’s activities, community organisations, etc which depicts a volunteering ethos.
2. Ability to identify and apply accurate knowledge and experience gained in the exchange to apply to both Rotary and partnered agencies.

Jeremy Wright

2021-2022 Governor

Rotary District 9675

9 July 2021