

# PiCCA ANNUAL REPORT

2016



  
PiCCA

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## Message from PiCCA's Chair

It's been another amazing year for PiCCA. Thanks to the wonderful involvement of our members, support from other donors, and dedicated effort from the directors, PiCCA's partnerships with local communities overseas continue to change lives and livelihoods for the better.

In 2016 we continued supporting projects in Swaziland and Sri Lanka, projects that aim to benefit vulnerable children and widows, and took on an additional project, in Nepal, which is helping to rebuild a 'hub' school in a remote area devastated by the April 2015 earthquakes.

Development work is predictably unpredictable, and while our projects have not been immune from challenges - drought, earthquakes, monsoons, bureaucracy - with dedication, patience, honest communication, creative problem-solving and a healthy dose of good humour, there has still been good progress.

We continue to be inspired by the local leaders, organisations and communities where we work. When we say 'partnership', we really do mean it. We respect a community's right to determine the priorities that are important to them, and to lead and manage their own project, with local expertise and labour, and supporting the local economy.

We learn from our partners as much as we give in return, which is funding, yes, but also - if needed - advice, in-kind resources, and access to networks. This has included volunteering to help the organisation better manage its overall programs (e.g. help with staffing processes) and risks (e.g. put in place better protections for vulnerable children), and using our networks to find additional support.

Our experience has shown that the relatively small development funding that PiCCA provides to a project can be catalytic - both in terms of the impact it has for the community, and in terms of its effect in helping to secure other funders' support for complementary projects.

PiCCA dedicates 100 percent of donated monies to projects. We're able to do this, because we gratefully accept some pro-bono professional services (thank you Simon Hancox of Grant Thornton and Angie Spencer of Sans Souci



External Relations), Members contribute to PiCCA's administration each year, and directors cover any shortfall. In 2016, the Australian Tax Office and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade gave permission for donations to PiCCA to be tax-deductible. This was a momentous achievement and a testament to the care and diligence with which PiCCA undertakes its work.

PiCCA's 'giving circle' model - where members pool their funding, expertise and other resources - is proving its worth. Members have suggested other projects in Kenya, South Sudan, Cambodia, PNG and Bougainville and continue to be involved in making decisions about how the funding pool is allocated. With such diverse experiences and backgrounds, PiCCA members' expertise has often been so helpful to project partners when they seek our advice.

In these ways, we think the value of PiCCA's funding is so much more than its dollar worth.

So, thank you Members, fellow Directors, partners and donors for your commitment to PiCCA and what we do. This annual report for 2016 is your story, what we - together - have achieved to date.

**Stephanie Boldeman, GAICD  
Chair**



## 2016 Highlights

### Project Sites

PiCCA currently has projects operating in Swaziland, Sri Lanka and Nepal.



### Overseas Partners

PiCCA has a formal agreement with AMICAALL which is an alliance of local governments and civil society responsible for developing and coordinating the political and technical capacity of local government in Swaziland to lead multi-sectoral responses to HIV/AIDS at the local level.

**Rudolph Maziya, National Director, AMICAALL, Swaziland**



PiCCA also has a formal agreement with Bridging Lanka, a non-profit organisation which pursues the relief of poverty, suffering, sickness, disability, helplessness and distress in the Mannar district of Sri Lanka.

**Jeremy Liyanage, CEO Bridging Lanka, Sri Lanka**



PiCCA's third formal partnership is with the Hilly Region Development Club which is a local, volunteer self-help organisation that manages projects in the local Village Development Committee area around Tawal, a remote village in central Nepal.

**Kanchha Tamang, President, Hilly Region Development Club, Nepal**



## Project Delivery - Swaziland



### *Food security for AIDS Orphans*

A working farm growing maize and other staple crops was established in 2016 in Swaziland, southern Africa. Magindanani Farm near Nhlangano in south-west Swaziland produces food which will be used to feed up to 3,500 orphans and other vulnerable children through 49 Social Centres which provide at least one meal a day and early childhood care and development. Some food will also be sold commercially to sustain the farm into the future. The first crop of maize is expected to be harvested in 2017 after reasonably good rains, following a serious drought in the first year of the project. Farming activities throughout the year will be possible utilizing irrigation techniques (funded by PiCCA) during winter when there is very little rain water.

## Project Delivery - Nepal

### *New multipurpose classroom for earthquake devastated school*

Foundations have been laid for new classrooms to replace a classroom destroyed in Nepal's huge 2015 earthquake. The Tawal hub school educates 430 students from Nursery class to Grade 10 who come from Tawal and five nearby villages located in a remote part of central Nepal. The classroom PiCCA is funding will be used as a computer/science lab/meeting room. Students are currently studying in tents and makeshift structures which leak in the monsoon rains.

The classroom is being built using earthquake resistant building techniques. The whole school is being rebuilt and it will be protected by a large gabion wall being built by the Nepal Australia Friendship Association, PiCCA's partner. The wall is designed to protect the school from landslides – a landslide caused by the earthquake destroyed the school in 2015.



## Project Delivery – Sri Lanka



### *Social enterprise for widows and vulnerable women*

Preparatory work has been completed to commence a commercial kitchen in Mannar, northern Sri Lanka to help women-headed households (including war widows) to move out of grinding poverty through a commercial catering social enterprise. Food will be sold to pilgrims visiting local Christian and Buddhist sites as well as to locals. While the building of the kitchen has been delayed due to unforeseen bureaucratic issues in Sri Lanka, the women continue to provide food services from a temporary canteen and are being trained in business and catering skills.

In line with PiCCA's policy to conduct site visits of projects, PiCCA Director Warren McMillan visited Sri Lanka in November 2015 and PiCCA Member, Terry Parker visited Swaziland also in November 2015. Repots of these site visits helped PiCCA's Board to monitor progress with the projects and to provide feedback to our partners.

## Members

At the end of December 2016 PiCCA had a small but committed membership of 21 people. We aim to grow this membership over time.





## Funds Raised

Since commencing in 2015 PiCCA has raised more than **\$36,000** in donations, 100 percent of these funds have been or will be sent overseas to support project work.

As at the end of December 2016 more than **\$22,000** had been transmitted overseas to meet milestone payments. Approximately \$12,000 will be sent overseas as project milestones are met. PiCCA also has donations of \$2,000 which will be applied to projects in 2017.

## Pro bono Support

PiCCA is greatly appreciative of the pro bono contribution made by Grant Thornton Australia (<http://www.granthornton.com.au/>) who undertook PiCCA's annual audit.

PiCCA was very pleased to be accepted as a pro bono client of Sans Souci External Relations (<http://www.sanssoucigr.com.au/>) an expert communications agency which is providing advice to PiCCA on its communications strategy.



SANS SOUCI  
EXTERNAL RELATIONS



## Aussie Partners

PiCCA collaborates with other non-government organisations in Australia. The Nepal Australia Friendship Association (NAFA) is our Australian partner for PiCCA's classroom building project in Nepal. NAFA representatives have visited the project and provided valuable reports on progress. PiCCA has also shared its policies with NAFA and maintains strong links with the organisation.

In 2016 PiCCA's Chair and Secretary assisted the AusCongo Network on the development of a project proposal for a social enterprise in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## Developments in 2016

In 2016 PiCCA funded its first project in Nepal. As mentioned above, this involves rebuilding a classroom in a school destroyed by the 2015 earthquake.



**On 18 December 2016 the Australian Government approved PiCCA Overseas Aid Fund for deductible gift recipient status. That means that donations of \$2 or more to the fund are tax deductible**



PiCCA Members undertook one site visit to a proposed project during the year. Following the nomination of the Hako Women's Collective infrastructure project by PiCCA Member, Mary Denver, Directors Warren McMillan and Steve Maguire visited Bougainville in November 2016 to gain more information and meet with relevant parties. The project will be considered by PiCCA Members as part of the 2017 funding round.



## My Story

The following personal stories provide insight into the human impact of the work PiCCA is doing with its overseas partners.



### From Swaziland

“My name is Mrs Albertina Masuku. I work at the Ngwane Park Social Centre as a volunteer and I have been doing this for 17 years. I work as part of a team of elderly women who prepare food for children five days in a week. Our menu includes: Mealie Meal porridge and beans; rice and beans; and sour porridge for breakfast. My team and I feed about 110 children per day. The children love the food and receive it with enthusiasm.”

### From Sri Lanka

“Hi, I am Stella. The civil war had a bad effect on me. I became a refugee and my husband abandoned me. I worried about what would happen to my child, and my mother being disabled was another burden for me. I was so afraid of my future. It was a frightening question mark.

With the help of Bridging Lanka I now work in the canteen. I can pay for my daughter’s education and cover my living expenses. That makes me happy.”





### From Nepal

“The school in Tawal was established in 1972. It was built using the labour of local villagers with support from NAFA and other organisations. So the villagers feel a lot of love towards the school. In the earthquake that occurred on 25 April 2015 everything in the school was destroyed. We don’t have anything. Most of the desks and benches were destroyed too. We had a beautiful library, a computer room, and a few computers but all those are broken or not in working order.”

Shir Bahadur Tamang, Headmaster

## Governance

### PiCCA Board



#### **Stephanie Boldeman GAICD, Chair**

Stephanie has a professional background in organisational development, research, and community services policy and program management. She is the inaugural Chair of PiCCA and is also a Committee Member for Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre.

#### **Warren McMillan, Treasurer**

Warren held senior positions in the Queensland Government's Bureau of Ethnic Affairs and Multicultural Affairs Queensland from 1991 to 2006. He was vice chair of the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland in 2007 and served as a board member, treasurer, vice chair and subsequently Chair of the Multicultural Development Association from 2006 to 2013.

#### **Steve Maguire, Company Secretary**

Steve has extensive experience in government, especially in the fields of social justice, social inclusion and community services. He has also worked for non-government organisations delivering community services.

#### **Tiziana Miceli, Director**

Tiziana worked as a lecturer in Italian Studies at Griffith University where her research interests included computer assisted learning and language teaching and learning methodologies. Her 30 year career as an educator drives her belief in and commitment to the liberating and empowering potential of education.



## **Board meetings**

PiCCA's Board of Directors met on 11 occasions in 2016 to plan, monitor and review the organisation's strategy, operations and finances.

## **Members**

During 2016, PiCCA's members were engaged through email updates and newsletters particularly about progress on projects. Members can also access PiCCA's Constitution, policies, Board meeting minutes and monthly financial statements. PiCCA was also active on Facebook, keeping Members updated on issues of interest.

Members had the opportunity to vote on the allocation of funds from the project development fund through a special voting event held on 5 June 2016. Members considered and discussed the project proposal and ultimately recommended that the project be funded.

## **Supporters**

PiCCA has a supporter base of 140 people, who have either signed up for PiCCA newsletters or who have 'liked' PiCCA's Facebook page (or both).

## **Directors' contributions**

Under PiCCA's Constitution, Directors are appointed for a two year term, and are accountable to ASIC and the ACNC for the operations of the organisation. Directors do not receive any remuneration or benefit from undertaking any duties related to PiCCA.

PiCCA has no paid staff and Directors undertake the majority of work required. The exceptions are website design and maintenance (outsourced to a fee-for-service contractor, Phoenix Design) and an auditor to review PiCCA's financial statements (provided on a pro bono basis).

To ensure that 100 percent of donations go to projects, PiCCA Directors have agreed to underwrite administrative expenses in excess of the amount collected in membership fees. In 2016, PiCCA Directors committed an additional \$1,700 to the funds raised from membership fees.

## **Directors' conflicts of interest**

PiCCA requires that any Director who has a conflict of interest must disclose this to the Board and, where the Board so determines, must exempt themselves from consideration and decision making in respect to the matter at hand.

In the reporting period there were no conflicts of interest raised by Directors.

## **Policies**

In 2016 the following new policies were approved by the Board:

Policy 14 Financial Management. This policy seeks to ensure that all PiCCA monies are managed properly and transparently, that PiCCA has appropriate financial controls in place and has zero tolerance of fraud.

Policy 15 Support to projects and activities parallel to the Giving Circle model. This policy sets the criteria and process PiCCA will use to determine if and how proposals for projects outside the giving circle model will be considered and for how such projects will be managed by PiCCA.

## **Charitable Fundraising Authority**

In February 2016 PiCCA was approved by the NSW Office of Fair Trading to undertake fundraising in New South Wales. PiCCA is also approved by the Queensland Office of Fair Trading to conduct fundraising in Queensland.

## Treasurer's Report

PiCCA is pleased to report that it raised \$15,402.33 in 2016 to support our projects overseas. Combined with the \$20,723.30 raised in 2015, PiCCA has been able to initiate projects with partners in Sri Lanka, Swaziland and Nepal. As envisaged, the collective generosity of PiCCA's members is being harnessed to achieve small scale but sustainable and effective aid outcomes overseas. Members are rewarded with the knowledge that 100 percent of these donations have either already been sent to or are committed against agreed milestones to be sent to deliver the very practical projects we are working on: a women's catering business; the development of a farm; the construction of a school science and computer lab.

PiCCA members can also be assured that PiCCA administrative costs are being frugally managed. Aside from the one major cost item of insurance which requires an annual payment of around \$1,700, PiCCA's official running costs for 2016 were \$496. This "oily rag" administration is made possible by the probono contribution of professional service providers including our wonderful Auditors and by the volunteer efforts of PiCCA members without whom none of this would be possible. Thank you so much.

PiCCA's audited financial statement for 2016 are attached – we recorded a small operating loss in this year's finances. This is a matter of timing. The cost of the substantial insurance bill which is our major outgoing item of administrative expenditure was in fact recouped but not within the time frame of the audit.

**Warren McMillan**  
**Treasurer**





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#### Disclaimer

This Annual Report documents PiCCA's activities, initiatives and achievements during 2016, and shows how we met our objectives for the year.

Copies of the report can be found at [www.picca.org.au](http://www.picca.org.au).

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