



PiCCA Australia

Annual Report 2019



Overview

PiCCA is very grateful to all our Members, donors and Australian and overseas partners for another successful year.

In May 2019, PiCCA members voted to support a new project in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In partnership with Symbiosis Foundation, PiCCA funding has enabled affordable dental and optical services to start helping low-income families in one of Dhaka's most densely populated areas.

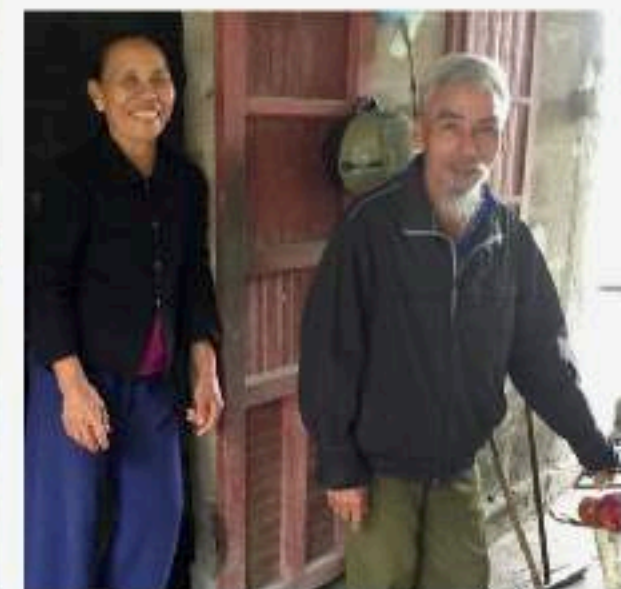
Through the Australian Government's Friendship Grants scheme, PiCCA and the Hako Women's Collective in Bougainville (Papua New Guinea) successfully completed an agriculture skills project. PiCCA visited the project twice during 2019, including for the opening of the Agriculture Hub.

During 2019, PiCCA's partnership in Vietnam drew to a close. PiCCA also attended the grand and very joyous opening of a remote school in Nepal, which PiCCA contributed to rebuilding after the 2015 earthquakes.

None of this work would be possible without the loyal and generous support of PiCCA members, who suggest, assess and vote on projects, donate to PiCCA's Overseas Aid Fund, and offer a range of pro-bono assistance and support. PiCCA warmly welcomed several new PiCCA members during 2019.

PiCCA is very grateful, too, for local partners like Simon from Grant Thornton (pro-bono auditors) and the Dante Alighieri Society, and to other generous donors - such as the Murphy Family Foundation and CWA Bangalow.

It truly is a collaborative effort with all of the paid and volunteer workers and community members in overseas countries. Thank you all so much!



Projects

Bangladesh

In May 2019, PiCCA members voted to partner with Symbiosis Foundation in Bangladesh to help establish the Kamrangirchor Composite Development Project in Dhaka.

Kamrangirchor is an island with an area of 5.5km² and a population of 1.2 million people, most of whom have moved to Dhaka to work in factories and who are impoverished. Before PiCCA's involvement, Symbiosis had established a preschool and surveyed families to identify their needs. Child labour/ worker exploitation, overcrowded living, pollution and poverty are significant issues here. Also, people are living far from their traditional support networks and are suspicious of anyone offering to help them.

The aim of the project is to provide a range of affordable, quality basic services that improve livelihoods and wellbeing, from one central location. During 2019, PiCCA provided funding of \$14,000 for the purchase of dental and optical clinic equipment and supplies. The eye clinic started in July and the dental clinic in September. The Symbiosis project team are working hard to let locals know about the services and encourage family members to access them. Clients pay a modest fee if they have the means to do so.

The project will end in 2020. Next steps are to establish a maternal health clinic, as well as a range of vocational training options. Additional PiCCA funding of \$6,000 is intended for the maternal health clinic equipment and a TukTuk which can be used for driver training. Symbiosis also hopes to establish some women's savings groups.



In March 2019, before PiCCA members decided to support the project, two PiCCA representatives met Symbiosis Foundation staff, volunteers and beneficiaries in Bangladesh to assess the project against PiCCA's extensive criteria.

Left to right with Stephanie & Steve from PiCCA: Siddique (Program Manager), Bakaar (Treasurer) and Dr Rahman (Country Director)





Bougainville, PNG

In 2019, PiCCA undertook its second project with the Hako Women's Collective, this time in partnership with the Australian Government, through a Friendship Grant. The project addressed food shortages and poor nutrition by providing training and ongoing support in better backyard farming. More than 90% of people in the region are subsistence farmers.

As part of the project, the Collective built an Agriculture Hub, which now provides many local farmers with advice on and access to rice milling, fertiliser and other farm inputs. The local Primary Industries office ran training in growing rice and techniques for seed selection, inter-planting, composting, soil nourishment and weed and pest management.

Dorcas Gano, President of the Hako Women's Collective, said "We have members across Haku and we knew the people who were in most need of training. We invited people with a disability, women from women-headed households and vulnerable young people (under 25 years) to be part of the training. They were excited to be involved." 83 people attended training.

Susan Garea from the Haku hamlet called Tahum attended the training. She said "My husband died and I had six children. I had no money to buy rice. I did the training and got rice seeds to plant. My kids helped me, we worked together as a team. I harvested rice for my family in December and sold my surplus. I was the first lady to mill rice, it was 30kg. I was very happy. Some people in my community saw my rice and they wanted to plant too. I gave them seeds and five families are now growing rice. My next rice harvest will be in March. I have also planted bananas, sweet potato, taro, and other vegetables."

Following an assessment visit in January 2020, PiCCA concluded that a significant number of training participants have improved their farming practices, and subsequently, food security and nutrition are better. Many participants are sharing their knowledge and skill with others, so the benefits are spreading across the region. Also, the project established a good working relationship between the Collective and the local Primary Industries office, which meant they are planning further work together, for example in fisheries and forestry management.



Project funding

\$35,000 Australian Government Friendship Grant
\$14,385 PiCCA

Nepal school opening

Hilly Region in remote Nepal was brimming with joy to celebrate - with much singing and dancing - the grand opening of a big secondary school (Pasang Chok Mhadev). PiCCA was one of many international donors who attended the event with 1,200 locals in February 2019.

President of the primary donor organisation (Nepal Australia Friendship Association), Rod Setterlund OAM, paid tribute to the communities' three years of painstaking rebuilding work since the April 2015 earthquakes.

PiCCA contributed \$10,000 towards a multi-purpose classroom. One of the students, Rajani Tamang, told PiCCA: "Our studies are so much better now we have a new school and new classrooms. Thank you very much!"



Democratic Republic of Congo

Starting in 2018, PiCCA's partnership with Kyeema Foundation and AusCongo has delivered Newcastle disease chicken vaccination training in the Mbuji-Mayi area of Congo. The disease is endemic in the Congo.

Hundreds of households with backyard chickens have been targeted by the vaccinators and as a result their flocks have flourished and incomes have improved.

In 2019, PiCCA contributed another tranche of \$782 (a total of \$11,937 for the project). Vaccinators are collecting a small fee from each farmer (equivalent to 10 US cents per bird), so they can buy stocks of the vaccine and earn an income themselves. See a case study [here](#). The final task to be completed in 2020 is to secure a small reliable fridge to store the vaccines, something that has proved rather difficult to date.





Vietnam

PiCCA continued its partnership with Hearts For Hue from 2018, improving the quality of life for people with a disability through chicken raising. In 2019, PiCCA provided the final tranche of funding of \$1,725 (total project contribution of \$19,176) and continued to monitor the impact of the project on the families involved.

The project worked with 50 people with a disability and their families, trained them in chicken raising, helped them build chicken coops at their home, and provided their first clutch of inoculated chickens to begin their farming. The project also provided ongoing expert support and advice.

The outcomes achieved so far are gratifying. 90% of people with disabilities reported that the project created jobs, generated income for families and improved participants' living conditions. The income was used to buy food for families, help with school expenses and to support and expand their chicken flocks.

The families reported an increase in happiness and purpose as they now have a job to do each day in looking after the chickens. 90% of the people with a disability feel that they are no longer a social burden on their family and community.



Case study: Mr Le Van Khe

Mr Le Van Khe is living with a mental illness and is unable to work. Before his participation in PiCCA's project, Mr Khe earned about \$2/day growing cassavas, peanuts and green beans. Since joining the project, he received 90 chickens, which he raises at his house. Mr Khe and his wife now have a sustainable income. In March, he sold a flock of chickens for around \$200. Mr Khe keeps 10 hens to lay eggs. Mr Khe said: "Every day, the hens lay about 8-10 eggs. Till now, there are a lot of eggs that I collected; I have sold some to the market. I also kept some eggs. Now, I have a new flock of 40 chickens thanks to the eggs." The price of chickens is expected to increase to about \$13 per chicken, because there is high demand after swine flu swept through the pig market recently.

With the income he now receives from chickens, Mr Le Van Khe can keep raising a new flock of chickens, improve the family daily meals and cover the family daily expense.

He also shared: "I found my happiness in raising these chickens. I have spent a lot of time to take care of chickens even in the evening. Also, I have always taking part in every single training sessions and self-help meetings to learn more about raising chicken techniques. We have shared a lot of experiences with the other participants and I really appreciate every single opinion from them. I have applied some experiences into my raising practice."

Mr Khanh Truong, Hearts For Hue's Chairman, said: "There are not enough words to express our gratitude to PiCCA for improving the living quality of people with disabilities in Vinh Phu Community."

Partners

PiCCA is very grateful for the support of a number of Australian-based organisations. We particularly acknowledge Grant Thornton for its generous pro bono support in undertaking PiCCA's Annual Audit.

The Dante Alighieri Society of Brisbane continues to be very generous in allowing PiCCA to successfully conduct fund raising activities which have boosted the funds available for projects.



Other donors

While almost all of the donations to PiCCA's Overseas Aid Fund come from PiCCA members we would like to acknowledge a number of significant non-member donations to PiCCA during 2019.

The Murphy Family, who have had a very long-standing association with Papua New Guinea in their engineering, construction and logistics business, made a very generous donation of 30,000 Kina. *Pictured right: Dan, Rory, Adrian and Robin Murphy.*

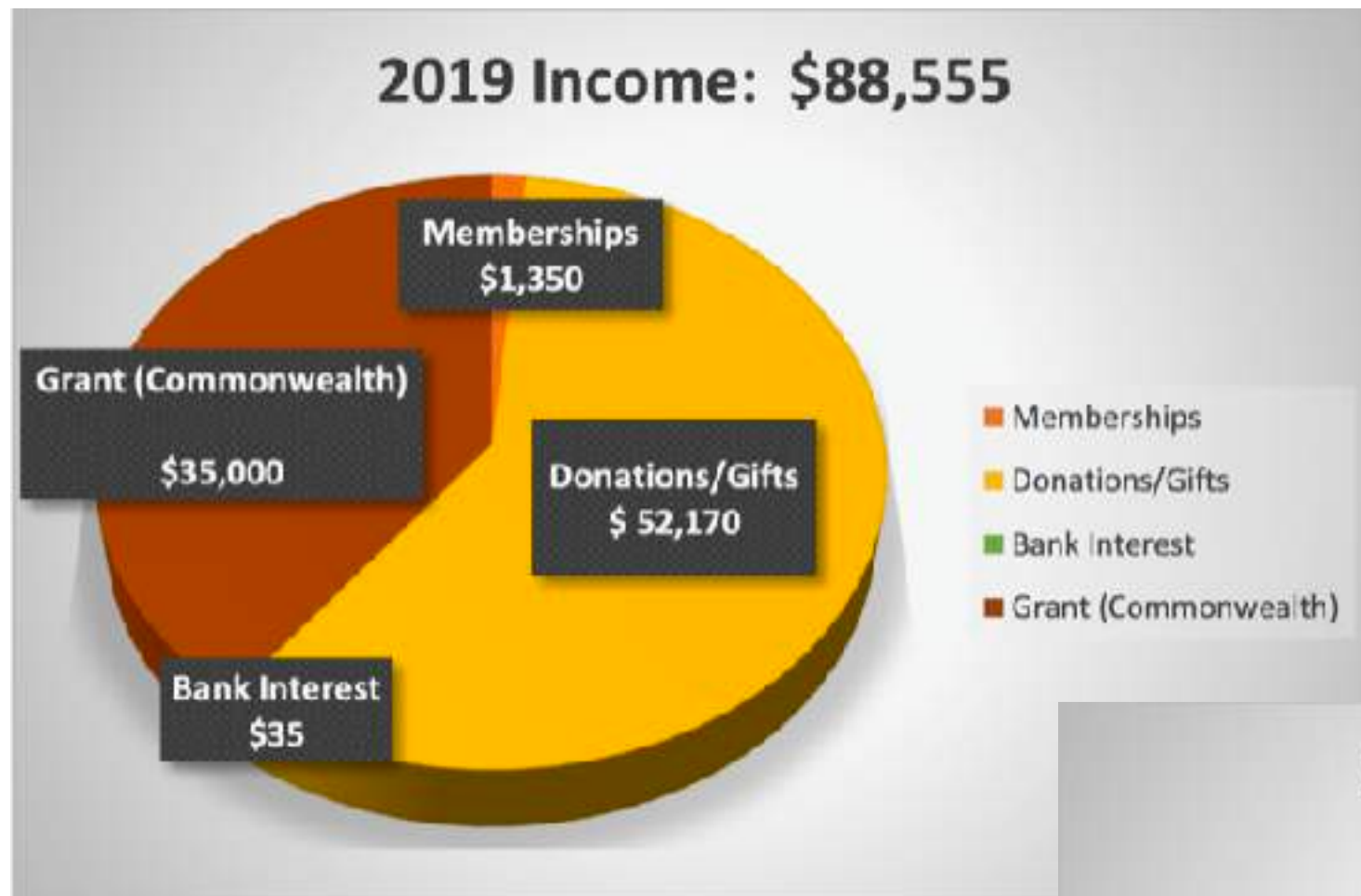
The Bangalow Branch of the Country Women's Association donated \$2,000 in 2019, their second donation in as many years.

Both of these donations were earmarked for the Hako Women's Collective in Bougainville. The funds will be spent during 2020.

PiCCA would also like to acknowledge donations from Encompass Africa, Ashgrove Acupuncture and Massage Clinic and the Rotary Club of Kingscliff (NSW).



Financial overview



| Cash at bank | |
|------------------|----------|
| December 31 2018 | \$9,015 |
| December 31 2019 | \$29,189 |

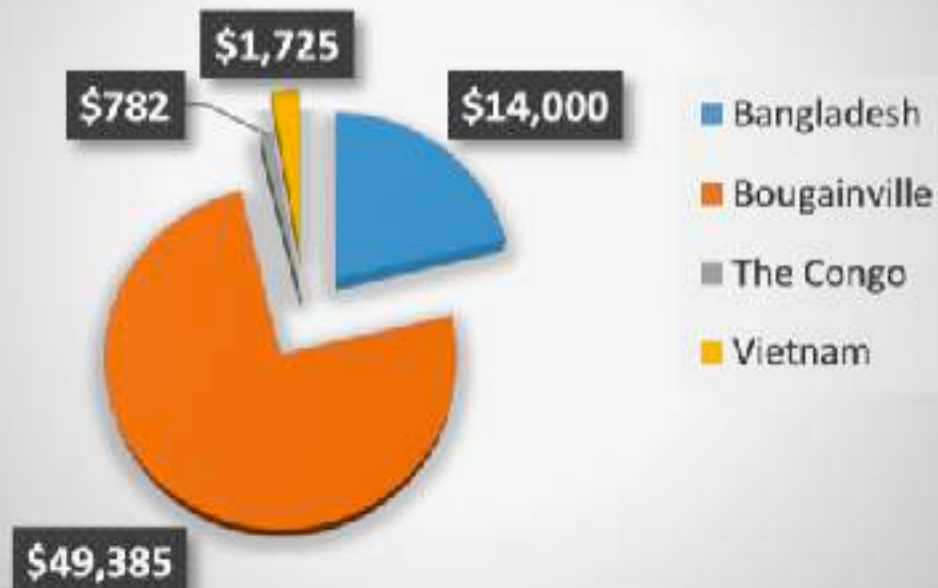


100% of funds donated to the PiCCA Overseas Aid Fund go to projects.

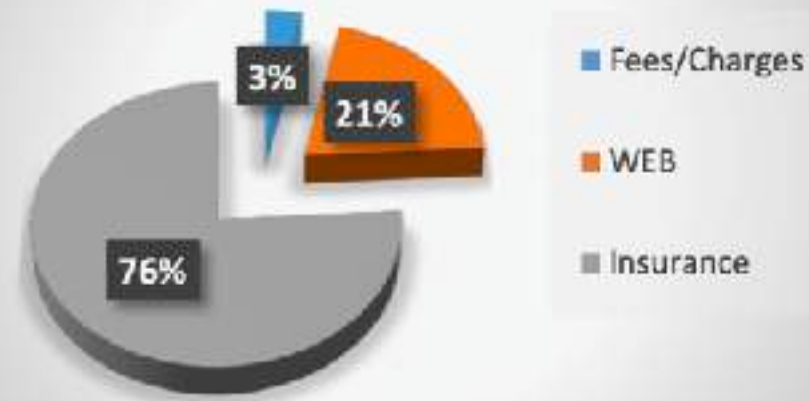
Administration costs are met by membership fees and additional contributions by PiCCA Directors.

Full audited financial statements are at
www.picca.org.au/reports/

Expenditure: Funds to International Projects



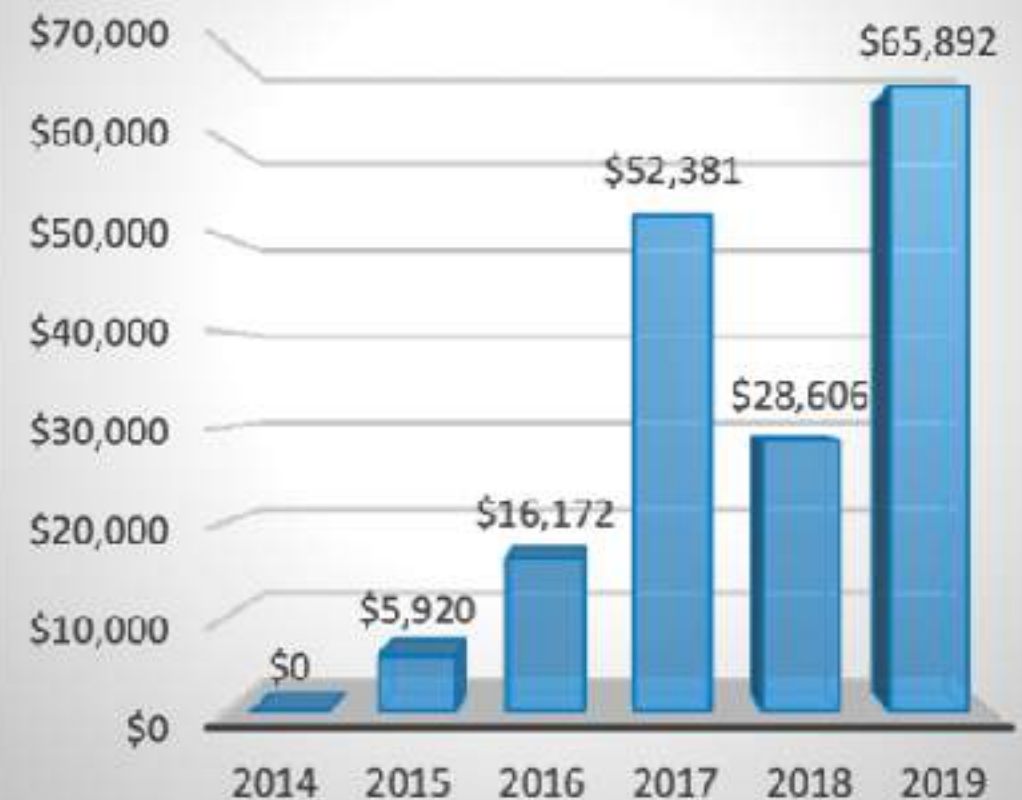
Expenditure: Admin



2019 Funds Committed to Milestones in 2020



PiCCA Funds to Projects \$168,971



About PiCCA

Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid Ltd ('PiCCA') is an Australian not-for-profit whose members are passionate about improving education, health, livelihood and food security for people in developing countries.

We find local organisations with wide support and a clear purpose, then support them with funding and in-kind resources for a specific project. Mostly our projects are one-off, but are housed within a broader community plan.

PiCCA's Members form a 'giving circle': Members pool donations of money, time and expertise and are actively involved in locating potential projects, choosing how donations are used and assisting project partners with their work.

We learn as much as we give. And we absolutely love what we do!

PiCCA is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, and is registered to fund-raise through the Queensland Office of Fair Trading.

The PiCCA Overseas Aid Fund is a Deductible Gift Recipient, meaning all donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. 100% of the funds donated go to projects.

We seek always to operate with fairness, transparency and accountability in all the work we do.

Donations, new members and general enquiries are very welcome!

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Above: Some PiCCA Members at the PiCCA 2019 Annual General Meeting.



Stephanie Boldeman
Chair



Warren McMillan
Treasurer



Tiziana Miceli
Director



Steve Maguire
Secretary