

Braille and Mobility Trainer
Pea, Tonga

This assignment has been negotiated in good faith with the Partner Organisation, and the information contained was correct at the time of acceptance of the request.

However, while we take responsibility for matters under our direct control, all assignments and arrangements are subject to change. This assignment may be amended or withdrawn to reflect changes in circumstances.

GENERAL DETAILS

Assignment Title	Braille and Mobility Trainer
Partner Organisation	Tonga National Visual Impairment Association(TNVIA)
Website of Partner Organisation	N/A
Duration of Assignment	12 months
Proposed Start Date	22 June 2020

1. PARTNER ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

Tonga National Visual Impairment Association (TNVIA) is a non-profit organization. Its head quarter is situated in Pea, Nuku’alofa, and Kingdom of Tonga Islands. This organization was registered under the Incorporated Act on 16 December 2015. TNVIA was establish to empower persons with disabilities (PWD) especially those who are blind or partially sighted to live independently and also shift from a charity focus to the human rights approach. The population of visual impaired in Tonga 4,370, population of disability 25,499. TNVIA has gather 86 registered members consisting of 34 male (5 children, 21 youths, 8 adults) and 32 female (5 children, 19 youths, 7 adults). With this total members only 12 from the outer islands: 5 from Vava’u (both female – 4 children, 1 youth) and 7 from Ha’apai (male – adult). TNVIA are looking forward to include more members from the outer islands (‘Eua, Ha’apai, Vava’u, Niufo’ou and Niuatoputapu) in the future. TNVIA are not supported by Government, and to implement their vision and achieve goals, they run a lot of fundraising. This fundraising has supported the purchasing of a van and to send students overseas to Fiji School for the Blind. They are able to support school frees and run the training centre for computer, music, mobility, cooking. For the members who are parity sight.

2. ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

If you have a passion for disability inclusion and inclusive education, TNVIA needs you. There is currently a critical need for a Braille and Mobility Trainer as part of the educational process for students with visual impairments. The number of students is increasing but there is no local expert who can help and support the TVIA program. There has been limited opportunity for professional development, particularly with updating the current practices of braille and mobility and

understanding the impact of people with visual impairment. Having a skilled volunteer would assist TNVIA in building the capacity of the teachers and staff, as well as provide more awareness in these areas for the community.

3. ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVES

- To support and strengthening the overall services provided by TNVIA
- To provide professional development, supervision and training to the Aged Care Program Caregivers who provide weekly home care/personal care services to elderly clients
- To ensure the **inclusion of all people** directly affected by the volunteer assignment in the course of your work with the partner organisation and host community, including implementing strategies that relate to:
 - a. promoting gender equality and empowering women,
 - b. disability inclusion, and
 - c. child safeguarding.

4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VOLUNTEER

In consultation with their line manager and relevant stakeholders, Australian volunteers complete a work plan in the first three (3) months of their assignment. The duties below are an indication of the type of work that may be involved in meeting the Assignment Objectives:

- Train and support students with visual impairments
- Identify and strengthen gaps in students, providing support to increase their knowledge
- Support with implementation of the program
- Increase community awareness and sustainability home visit for elderly
- Develop and/or maintain partnerships with local, regional and international organisations, local and national government, professional and peer networks

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

Qualifications, Essential Skills & Experience

- Candidates must have a Certificate III or IV in Disability Services
- Certificate in Braille or higher/or other relevant skills and experience in a visual impairment setting
- 2 to 3 years' experience working with visual impairments
- TAE40110 / TAE40116 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (or equivalent)
- Current First Aid certificate (CPR)

6. ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION

Line Manager

Chair of the board or Secretary of the board

Staff Supervision

N/A

Working Relationships

The volunteer will work closely with the President

Hours & Days at the Partner Organisation

From 9:00.am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Leave Entitlements

The same conditions and terms will apply to the volunteer, however, as a minimum, volunteers will accrue 1 week of annual leave for each 3 months of work.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Professional indemnity insurance is required for all volunteers who are acting as a medical, allied health or legal professional whilst on assignment. On these assignments professional indemnity insurance must be provided by the partner organisation, Australian organisation (if applicable) or self-arranged by the volunteer as part of ongoing professional obligations.

For all other assignments, professional indemnity insurance is not automatically provided for Australian volunteers. You should consult your partner organisation about the need for professional indemnity insurance for your role prior to your departure. Where required and/or you consider it essential for you to hold this insurance, please discuss this with the Volunteer Services Manager in Melbourne prior to your departure.

This assignment is not deemed to require professional indemnity insurance.

Other Conditions

If required to work after hours, volunteer is entitled to time off in lieu because there is no overtime pay provisions.

Language Skills and Level Required

Low

Language Support

Language support is provided during the in-country orientation period. Most often, additional resources for further development later in the assignment will be available if required.

7. LIVING AS A VOLUNTEER

Nuku'alofa is on the north Coast of Tongatapu Island, the most populated region of Tonga. Nuku'alofa Harbour is the island's only deep-water harbour, which determined its selection as the site for the capital. Buses and taxis are readily available and it is also possible to walk around the capital due to its small size and flat landscape. While bicycles are the preferred

mode of transport, there are also regular boat and air services available from Nuku'alofa to other islands. The temperature is generally warm, with a brief cool winter.

As the economic hub of the country, Nuku'alofa has a central business district and numerous marketplaces. Services such as banks, mobile reception, and internet are accessible. The island features monuments, tomb, limestone caves and blowholes. The Tongatapu group of islands is home to coral reef and tropical fish, creating opportunities for snorkelling, diving, fishing and whale watching.

Cultural Tips

- The national language are Tongan and English
- Most Tongans are religious and attend church on a weekly basis
- Many shops and services will not be available on Sundays
- Casual, modest clothing is usually acceptable in the workplace. Men may also like to consider wearing traditional tupenu and ta'ovala. For formal occasions, women may consider wearing a traditional kiekie

8. ALLOWANCES & SUPPORT

These allowance levels are based on the Cost of Living in the host country location. Allowances will be reviewed periodically and may increase or decrease. Volunteers will be given notice of any change to the allowance level.

Living Allowance

1259 AUD

Accommodation Allowance

506 AUD

Housing

Assistance with the identification of suitable, secure and affordable accommodation will be provided by the In-Country Management Team.

Other Allowances & Support

All Australian Volunteers program volunteers receive the following:

- Pre-departure Briefing in Melbourne
- In-country Orientation on arrival
- Pre-departure vaccination expenses
- Visa expenses
- Pastoral care, assignment monitoring and security guidance
- Return airfare to country of assignment
- Psychological and medical advice and support services
- Re-entry support services
- Settling in allowance (assignments longer than 6 months)
- Re-settlement allowance (assignments longer than 6 months)

9. PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION

As a part of your online application you will be required to answer the following questions through a video recording (if you are unable to submit through the online video due to accessibility please contact the Recruitment Coordinator).

Response to Selection Criteria

- a) Why do I feel that volunteering internationally is the right thing for me to be doing at this time in my life?
- b) What are the biggest personal adjustments I'm likely to have to make to be accepted as a useful colleague and engaged community member in this assignment?
- c) The Australian Volunteers Program is committed to ensuring the inclusion of all people directly affected by the volunteer assignment, such as the partner organisation and host community. What is your personal experience and/or understanding of social inclusion.
- d) How do I match the Qualifications, Essential Skills & Experience? Include your most relevant experiences, results and achievements responding to each of the selection criteria in Section 5.

Personal Circumstances Constraints

The Australian Volunteers Program recognizes and values the enhanced skills and expertise of returned volunteers as a result of their volunteering experience. The program is also designed to maximize international volunteering opportunities for all Australians. With this in mind, if a returned volunteer and a candidate who has not volunteered previously apply for the same role, preference will be given to the latter, providing they meet the personal and professional selection criteria for the role.

We are NOT able to accept applications from people with the following personal circumstances due to security, cultural, legal or visa restrictions in this location:

- Same sex partners who wish to accompany applicants as part of the program may face issues in applying for and being issued with a visa
- Applicants with a criminal record where a criminal conviction may be relevant to the inherent requirements of the assignment.

10. HOW TO APPLY

All applications must be submitted online through the Australian Volunteers Program website. If you haven't already done so, you will need to register on our website prior to applying.

The Australian Volunteers Program is committed to increasing Indigenous participation, and we actively encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. If you would like

*more information or support with your application, you can contact our Indigenous Programs
Coordinator on indigenous.programs@australianvolunteers.com.*