



Australian Foundation for Fostering Learning in the Philippines

What is AFFLIP and what does it do?

AFFLIP is a not for profit Foundation, based in South Australia, comprising people with a deep interest in education who want to make a contribution to the educational development of young people living in some of the poorest areas of the Philippines. AFFLIP's focus is on learning, and so its various programs involve fundraising to provide physical facilities and learning resources for schools, linking with other agencies to promote the health and nutrition of students, and supporting professional development for teachers.

In the next few years AFFLIP is working in the Talomo District of the Department of Education of the Philippines which houses some of the most disadvantaged schools in Davao City, the largest city on the island of Mindanao in the southern Philippines. Each year AFFLIP designs a program, in collaboration with the schools in the district and the DepEd Division of Davao City, which seeks to meet needs identified by the school communities, in ways consistent with the available resources. In addition, Talomo District schools are 'paired' with schools in South Australia, and this facilitates such activities as exchange programs and collaborative learning projects focusing on issues which impact on the lives of people living in both countries.

Why does AFFLIP exist and why the Philippines?

Education is central to the well-being of individuals and whole communities. In developing countries, this connection makes education the key to overcoming poverty, building the economy, and energising democracy. There are many parts of the world where it is difficult to provide a powerful education for young people, largely because of a lack of adequate physical and human resources. Until these problems are addressed, the disparities between wealthy and impoverished countries will continue to grow, and the hope for a world where human beings can live in harmony with each other and with the environment will continue to be no more than a dream.

Clearly this presents a challenge for national, regional and world governments and agencies that cannot be ignored. But the size of the task means that the work cannot be left entirely to governments. It also demands that individual citizens living in more affluent countries, such as Australia, make a contribution. AFFLIP is an example of one response being made by a group of individuals to such challenges. The Philippines has been chosen for three major reasons. First, the Philippines lies in the bottom half of the United Nations Human Development Index (HDI) which is a comparative measure of life expectancy, literacy, education and standards of living for countries worldwide. Second, there have been and continue to be strong economic and cultural ties between the Philippines and Australia, and specifically South Australia. Third, two members of the AFFLIP Board have worked in the Philippines on an AusAID education program – one for a period of seven years – and so are aware of the context and have a well-developed network of contacts, particularly in education.

Who is involved in AFFLIP and how is it organised?

AFFLIP comprises South Australians and Filipinos with a deep interest in education who want to volunteer some of their time and expertise, working alongside school communities in the Philippines, to enhance the quality of education for Filipino students. There are three arms of AFFLIP:

- (1) The **AFFLIP Board**, comprising seven people, is the governing body of the Foundation, and a number of sub-committees supervise its major programs. The Board works in partnership with the **AFFLIP Technical Working Group (TWG)**, comprising eight Filipino educators. The TWG acts as the advisory and operational arm for the AFFLIP Board in the Philippines.
- (2) **AFFLIP members** are people who pay an annual subscription fee, and support the Foundation in a range of ways, from actively assisting the Foundation in the planning and delivery of its educational programs to attending AFFLIP fundraising events.
- (3) **AFFLIP schools** are the participating schools in the Philippines and in South Australia.

Who are the members of the AFFLIP Board?

Patron:

Hon. Greg Crafter had a distinguished career as a Member of the South Australian Parliament during which time he held four major ministerial portfolios, including that of Education and Children's Services (1985-1992). Greg is a highly respected educator nationally and internationally and a former President of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (Geneva).

Board Members

Professor Alan Reid (Chair), Emeritus Professor University of South Australia, who received a Member of the Order of Australia award in January 2012 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Australian education .

Mr Alastair Douglas (Deputy Chair), previously a principal in the Department of Education and Children's Services in South Australia, who has worked extensively as a consultant in education internationally over the last 15 years, including the Philippines and Mindanao in particular.

Dr Graham Dodd, a nationally recognised educator in the field of Health & Physical Education with extensive experience in education at both school and tertiary level, and a successful businessman.

Mr Jock McFarlane, previously one of the leading agricultural consultants for the Department of Agriculture in SA and now continuing to conduct a successful farming business.

Mr Trevor Tiller, previously a district director in the Department of Education and Children's Services in South Australia and now a consultant in education, who has worked internationally including in Mindanao.

Ms Lyn Wilkinson, a Senior Lecturer at the Flinders University of South Australia and a specialist in the area of English language and literacy.

Mr John Younger (Treasurer), Chartered Accountant and successful businessman with extensive experience in charitable organisation procedures and management.

What projects does AFFLIP support?

Each year, schools in the participating school District identify their most pressing needs and then develop a concise proposal which explains the reasons for each request; an estimation of the overall cost, including the human and material resources that are needed; and an evaluation plan. These proposals are aggregated by the AFFLIP Technical Working Group and assessed by the AFFLIP Board, in consultation with the TWG and individual schools. From this process is born the Foundation's program for the year which usually spans three broad areas:

- *Student well-being* – resources and activities which promote student physical and emotional well-being such as a contribution to addressing malnourishment through, for

example, funding the establishment and running of school vegetable gardens; relationship development programs etc.

- *Curriculum* – resources and activities which promote learning such as curriculum materials; staff professional development especially related to pedagogy, curriculum content and educational leadership; pairing with South Australian schools within a schools network to foster mutual learning between students and teachers in vastly different cultures and contexts; and on-line learning exchanges between teachers in South Australia and Mindanao.
- *Physical infrastructure and resources* – small infrastructure projects such as hand basins, reading stations, video-conferencing technology.

Who has endorsed AFFLIP?

Endorsements for AFFLIP have been received from many groups and individuals including the following:

- *'Undoubtedly, AFFLIP as a foundation would implement projects supportive to DepED's commitment to the achievement of the goals of Education for All and the Millennium Development Goal by 2015. Its added value is the involvement of some Australian educators who deeply manifest the responsibility for the holistic development of disadvantaged Filipino learners.'* (Dr. Yolanda S. Quijano – Undersecretary for Programs and Projects, DepED Central Office, Manila)
- *'This is to strongly endorse, with much gratitude and appreciation, the proposed Australian Foundation for Fostering Learning in the Philippines (AFFLIP) project of assistance by a group of educators from South Australia, designed to provide much needed assistance to public schools initially to the Talomo district in Davao City, Philippines. I and the other education leaders of the Department of Education have the highest expectations that AFFLIP will contribute a lot to alleviate the present limitations in resources and expertise in our schools.'* (Ms. Susana Teresa B. Estigoy - Regional Director Region 11, Davao City)
- *'Davao City believes in the importance of education and how it can bring about the needed change in our society as a nation. We welcome the initiatives of the organisation in assisting our public schools, their administrators and our educators to introduce interventions necessary for the enhancement of the education system. We trust that this will be the start of a fruitful partnership between AFFLIP and the City Government of Davao for more endeavours in the future.'* (Ms. Sara Z. Duterte - the Mayor of Davao City)
- *'(AFFLIP) was established by volunteer South Australian educators in order to support and improve the quality of education in disadvantaged schools in the Philippines. The AFFLIP success will greatly benefit our countries and result in direct economic benefits and growth for the region.'* (Hon. Karlo A. B. Nograles - Congressman for 1st District, Davao City)
- *'The Department of Education, Division of Davao City strongly endorse with heartfelt gratitude the proposed Australian Foundation for Fostering Learning in the Philippines project of assistance by a group of educators from South Australia, designed to provide much needed assistance to public schools initially in Davao City, Philippines.'* (Dr. Helen D. Paguican - Schools Division Superintendent Davao City Division)

- *'The aims that you have established for the foundation are very much focused on striving for educational equity and improvement in education systems. This is something that I support and very much links with the major purposes of education which benefits individuals and communities.'* (Mr. Keith Bartley – Chief Executive of Department for Education and Children's Development (DECD) in South Australia)
- *'AFFLIP's objectives are consistent with AusAID's objectives of improving the quality of and access to basic education and helping the Philippine Department of Education achieve the Education for All and Millennium Development Goals by 2015. We hope that AFFLIP interventions will be able to complement and reinforce what has been achieved through the BEAM Program, specifically building on the successes on School Based Management. We also hope that through AFFLIP's program, people to people linkages between Australia and the Philippines towards improving the quality of basic education will continue to be strengthened.'* (Mr. Titon Mitra - Minister Counsellor AusAID, Manila)
- *'We welcome this development regarding the envisioned foundation. Your foundation's vision is exactly along the same direction we are taking as we prepare for our next 5-Year Country Programme for the Philippines (2012-16).'* (Ms. Ma. Lourdes de Vera-Mateo - Education Specialist, UNICEF Philippines Country Office)
- *The Australian Foundation for Fostering Learning in the Philippines (AFFLIP) is an exciting South Australian initiative I have no doubt that this project will have far-reaching positive implications for the two countries' relationships, particularly in the areas of international assistance program and educational development.'* (Dr. Reynaldo Dante G. Juanta, O.A.M. - Philippines Consul General, Adelaide, South Australia)

How can I help?

Becoming a member of AFFLIP

Supporting AFFLIP fundraising ventures

Assisting with the implementation of programs related to twinning, resource collection, professional development of teachers/leaders and health and nutrition

Making a donation to AFFLIP

Receiving periodic newsletters and telling others of the program

Who should I contact?

Any Board members would be pleased to provide further information about AFFLIP.

Contact details for Alan Reid (Chair) and Alastair Douglas (Deputy Chair) are as follows:

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