



## THE ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

17 May 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Since they were first prepared in 1961 for mission to Papua New Guinea, Catholic missionaries from Australia and New Zealand have been placed in 40 countries, assisting the development of 408 communities globally.

In the face of challenges to global mission such as COVID-19 and growing uncertainty about world security, Palms applied its intercultural expertise domestically to extend opportunities for mission within Australian communities through its new Neighbours Without Borders program.

Palms is redoubling its efforts in response to overseas communities' requests to assist develop individual and organisational capacity through skill exchange. New skilled and committed applicants are being thoroughly prepared for their intercultural mission in remote parishes, schools and communities abroad.

I ask that you publish bulletin notices and forward emails sent to you that promote opportunities for individuals to engage in a Palms Global Mission. I also encourage you to help promote the Neighbours Without Borders program to assist Australian parishes and schools to embrace diversity more fully and build on gifts to grow stronger communities.

Those considering a mission engagement with Palms will receive the following support from the Archdiocese:

1. The cost of preparing Palms program participants for mission and a re-entry weekend upon return from a mission placement abroad.
2. An indexed gratuity payment of \$2,929 (2023) after each year of mission service.
3. Palms negotiations with Catholic schools assures great support and benefits for teachers giving up to two years for this mission. Teachers should talk with Palms about the details.

Through those sent on a Palms mission we are all given the opportunity to reach beyond cultural, class and gender differences to affirm the dignity of all, while "promoting and implementing the development goals that are supported by our deepest religious and ethical values" (Pope Francis).

As always in the Lord,

Archbishop of Brisbane

**The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge**

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