



Kampuchea
House

PRESIDENT'S REPORT KAMPUCHEA HOUSE (AUSTRALIA) INC AGM 2022

Many of you will recall that Kampuchea House was founded back in 2007, over 15 years ago, with major fundraising events to build the facility at the Dom Dek site that has housed and supported over 50 children throughout its journey since March 2008. Particular thanks must go to Bev and Geoff Edwards, and Caroline Brand and Chris Holland, who have been on this journey with us from day one. They continue to be extraordinary ongoing sponsors.

Westbourne Grammar School has continued to be our long term major sponsor over the 15 years of operation. We are indebted to their amazing enthusiasm and fundraising to support our project in Cambodia. We certainly hope that in the near future they will be able to travel to see our children at Kampuchea House, as their visits were always an annual highlight for our kids.

Life has returned to a form of normality over the past year, with our children returning to their daily schooling and university commitments. We are extremely proud of both Noch and Yim. Noch has graduated with a Bachelor of Accountancy recently coming in 4th position from 200 students in her course. Yim, too, has excelled and graduated at an extremely high level with a Bachelor of English. Both girls are sourcing their career paths. Rina continues to live with us whilst she is working and continuing with further advanced studies. Chayna is completing Year 12 and is in the process of selecting tertiary studies. Rea and Net will be entering Year 12 next year, whilst Ban will progress to Year 9 and Somnang to Year 5.

Minea continues to live in Phnom Penh with his brother Chinh. Respectively Minea is now in Year 6 of his medical degree and Chinh is in year 8. This is such a wonderful achievement and they are both very committed to their studies.

Throughout the pandemic years we have been enormously fortunate to have Leng, our Director, assisting us. We cannot praise her enough for all the extra work she has done to ensure everything has continued to run smoothly in the face of

unexpected occurrences throughout the last 12 months. Her care for our children has always been first class, whether it be with their schooling, physical wellbeing or mental health. She is always organising special excursions, birthday parties, fun games, bicycle rides through the temples for exercise and picnic outings. We are deeply indebted to Leng for her professional manner and the care that she has provided to our children and staff over the 14 years she has worked for us.

Special thanks also go to our longstanding staff Hom and Srey Mom. They have cared for our children over the 14 years of their working careers at Kampuchea House.

The children and staff were delighted to have 2 visits from Belinda over the past year. Another excitement was a visit from Mr and Mrs Chris, as they are fondly known by our kids.

Our financial position for the year ended 30 June 2022 shows reserves of \$233,506 with an operating deficit of \$37,598. Our total remittances to Kampuchea House, Cambodia during the past financial year totalled \$87,136. The education costs continue to be a significant factor in our budgeting for the running of Kampuchea House. This is evident in the funds provided this year, with the children returning to their normal classes at their schools and tertiary institutions post-lockdown. The funds provided by KH Australia cover all facets of our children's requirements, including their well-being and personal expenses, food, clothing, medical, education, rent and staff payments. Our mission has always been to provide a caring family environment with the best possible education that will allow our children to have an independent lifestyle in the future.

We continue to run under the Cambodian government regulatory system that prevents us from taking anymore children into our care. Our plans are for the children capable of graduating from Year 12 to continue in our care. The gradual wind-down of Kampuchea House will proceed over the forthcoming years.

Our committee members continue to work tirelessly here in Melbourne. Special thanks go to Belinda Lightfoot, our Vice President. Belinda liaises regularly with Leng to update us on all issues with Kampuchea House in Siem Reap. My thanks also go to our other committee members. Chris Phillips – Secretary, Lyn Laister – Treasurer and Ann Darwent – Media and Communications.

Your ongoing commitment to Kampuchea House is very much appreciated.

I would like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters who have been with us over many years. I do hope that you remain with us on our journey during the gradual wind-down of our organisation. We are in a healthy position to continue to provide a caring and learning environment for those children that are still in our care with us.



President

6 December 2022