

# Global Aid Network (GAIN) Australia

## Revealing Hope, Restoring Life



We are excited that your son or daughter is considering taking part in one of Global Aid Network's Missions, partnering with Power to Change Summer Missions. Our experience over many years of running mission trips is that they are life-changing experiences for all who participate in them. These young adults are given a wonderful opportunity to experience a new culture, as well as develop skills and leadership abilities as they step outside their comfort zone. The skills and abilities they learn are all part of building the foundation of who they will become in the years ahead. Our desire is that you, as their parent(s), would be informed about our trips and what they involve. We want to support you, as a parent, in your role as a guide and guardian for your child, and encourage you to explore the information below. If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

### **About Global Aid Network**

Global Aid Network (GAIN) Australia demonstrates the love of God by revealing hope and restoring life through relief and development initiatives for people living in crisis and injustice. Global Aid Network is the humanitarian strategy of Power to Change in Australia and Cru globally. GAIN has offices in nine different nations and works in over fifty-two countries around the world.

Water (or the Water for Life Initiative) is one of GAIN's core strategies aimed at addressing one of the most fundamental human needs: access to clean and safe water. GAIN's Water for Life Initiative focuses on implementing sustainable water solutions in remote communities in Sub-Saharan Africa facing water scarcity. Communities are trained in a range of topics as we partner with the local church to strengthen them to share God's love with the whole community.

### **What Is a Vision Trip?**

A Vision Trip is an opportunity for individuals to actively engage in the work and missions of GAIN. These trips provide a transformative experience by allowing participants to interact with people affected by poverty, injustice, and crisis. By meeting them personally, sharing meals, listening to their stories, and working alongside them, participants gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by these communities. The trips offer a chance to witness the impact of clean water and the message of Jesus on these communities, and to see firsthand the stages of development, from villages without water to transformed communities with access to clean water sources. Participants will engage with GAIN's local staff, witness the drill rig in action, receive hands-on experience in installing wells, potentially assist in building a church, and engage in training, film showings, and encouraging local pastors and staff.

### **About Power to Change**

Power to Change is a not-for-profit non-denominational Christian organisation, originally founded in the USA and established in Australia in 1967. In Australia, we work with university students, high school students, churches, families and film to connect people to Jesus and each other. GAIN is one of the strategies we use to achieve that. You can find out more about Power to Change here: [powertochange.org.au](http://powertochange.org.au)

### **Leadership**

There will be at least one Global Aid Network missionary and one Power to Change missionary who will oversee all administrative operations, scheduling, logistics, teaching and training. They will be responsible for the care and safety of the team, and have all received specific training in how to carry out those responsibilities. Their contact details will be shared with you.

### **Safety**

Your child's safety is our priority, and while no one can guarantee the complete safety of anyone, we do take appropriate precautions to reduce the risk of danger to those participating in Power to Change activities. All participants in our mission trips are given training and orientation, both in Australia and in-country, including sessions on safety and what to do in case of an emergency.

### **How do I know these trips are safe?**

We will be consistently monitoring the location both in the lead up to the trip and during the trip, and evaluate for political stability, recent and previous history, as well as any national issues that may have the potential to escalate. We are in regular communication with our leaders in those locations, to ensure we have up-to-date, accurate and relevant information about the situation. We also closely follow Australian (DFAT) security briefings on our locations. The mission trip leaders are trained in basic areas of crisis management, and they will work with local leadership to ensure the safety of our teams.



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### **COVID Measures**

Our highest priority is to safeguard the health and well-being of our team members during the COVID-19 pandemic. With guidelines and restrictions changing constantly, we will review government guidelines closer to the date of travel and advise all team members of the recommended measures. Our risk assessment of each mission includes a COVID Safe Plan and we will be monitoring the situation in Tanzania. If circumstances change in the coming months and a team member no longer feels comfortable traveling internationally, they will have until September 18th to withdraw from the mission without any financial commitment. A withdrawal after this date may result in accommodation, flights or other travel plans to be booked which may require some of the mission fee to be paid by the student to cover costs.

### **What happens in the case of a natural disaster or other unforeseen emergency?**

If conditions were to become unsafe during the trip itself, the appropriate emergency protocol for that location will be followed. Our team in Australia will be notified and we will contact the emergency contacts of all our students to update them on the process being followed.

All participants are required to have top level travel insurance, provided through Power to Change's travel insurer.

**In case of an emergency, or if you simply have a need or concern, while your son or daughter is overseas** You can contact the Australian Mission Overseer (we ask each participant to give this information to their parents). If you are not able to contact them, then you can contact the Global Aid Network office.

### **Finances**

All students are encouraged to find people who will partner with them financially for the Mission. This gives them an opportunity to trust God to provide for their needs in a very tangible way, as well as inviting others to be a part of what God will do through them during their Mission. Every year we see God provide hundreds of thousands of dollars towards the cost of students going on one of our mission trips, whether domestically or internationally. Our students are all given a coach who will encourage and help them throughout the process of finding people who will partner with them.

The amount each student raises will cover the cost of their international airfare, their training and debriefing, in-country accommodation and transport as well as all meals. It is expected that students would take their own personal money for incidental items like snacks or souvenirs.

### **How do I communicate with my son or daughter while they are overseas?**

Each location will have different access to communication, but it is expected that some internet access will be available at different points in the Mission. We would encourage you and your son or daughter to investigate ways to communicate using the internet while they are overseas, as this will be the simplest and most affordable method to use. Please be aware that they may not have consistent access to phones and internet to be able to communicate with you, and we encourage them to limit their communication with home so as to focus on their team and what they are there to do.

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