

RAWCS



"As we move into the new financial year (and where did the last one go?), RAWCS is looking forward to a host of new initiatives and opportunities. The Airbnb partnership - details below - show one more way we, and Rotary clubs throughout Australia, can bring help and hope to those impacted by disasters. Please also spare a thought for Venezuela and the tragedy that continues to unfold there. The disaster fund we have set up will be spent in conjunction with local Venezuelan Rotary clubs."

HEATHER CHONG, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Airbnb.org Partnership

We are thrilled to announce a life-changing partnership between Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) and Airbnb.org! This powerful collaboration is set to make a real difference for communities across Australia, providing a vital safety net of free, short-term emergency accommodation for those impacted by disasters.

When crisis strikes and government-declared disasters occur, this initiative empowers local Rotary clubs and districts to spring into action and provide immediate, secure housing for those who need it most. The process is designed for speed and care: once a disaster is declared, local Rotary teams can reach out to RAWCS to initiate support.

After a swift review, Airbnb.org steps in to help. Our local clubs then verify the needs of those affected, ensuring help reaches the right hands through a streamlined agreement process. Airbnb.org then issues accommodation credits directly to the beneficiaries, giving them the dignity and autonomy to book their own safe haven. For more details on how we are transforming disaster relief, visit

<https://rawcs.org.au/rotarian-centre/>.

RAWCS 60th Birthday!

Six decades. Thousands of projects. Tens of thousands of lives changed. This year, Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) celebrates 60 years of humanitarian service, supporting communities across Australia and in 45 countries around the world.

In that time, we have made over half a billion dollars available in aid and

delivered projects that provide clean water, disaster relief, healthcare, education and so much more.

To mark this extraordinary milestone, our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, hosted the RAWCS 60th Anniversary celebration at the Government House in Canberra.

Her Excellency also unveiled our commemorative digital book, 60 Years 60 Stories, available at <https://ebooks.cld.bz/RAWCS>.

Distinguished Service Award recipients include: PDG Dr Bruce Anderson, PDG Lou Johnson, PDG Merv Williams, PP Jim Wilson and PP Dave Pearson. Humanitarian Service Award recipients include: Max Bird, David Goldsmith OAM, PP Janis Harvey, Sue O'Neill OAM and Brad Quilliam.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of 60 remarkable years. Here's to the next 60.

Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

On 24 June, two powerful earthquakes devastated communities across Venezuela, leaving at least 1,430 people dead, more than 3,238 injured and over 68,900 people unaccounted for. Recovery will take years, but Rotary Clubs in Venezuela are already working towards helping families rebuild their lives. We have currently raised almost \$5,000 towards our \$2 million appeal. Your donation will provide practical assistance, hope and long-term recovery to those affected.

Donate today: <https://directory.rawcs.com.au/116-2025-26>

Rotary Australia Community Grants (RACG)

Across Australia, thousands of individuals and families are facing hardship beyond their control. With rising living costs, limited housing, non-NDIS covered disability expenses, and the growing impacts of domestic and family violence, many are left devoid of hope. The demand for rapid, compassionate and flexible support has never been greater.

RACG fills this gap by enabling Rotary clubs nationwide to identify Australians in genuine need and provide targeted assistance.

RACG has delivered more than six million dollars in compassionate aid since its inception seed-funded by the Dick and Pip Smith Foundation. As Dick Smith mentioned, "What is the point of great wealth if it is not used for a good purpose."

RACG's impact begins at the heart of our Rotary Clubs, where club members identify people who require assistance within their communities. This is seen in stories like Matty's.

As individuals, our independence is so



important. For Matty, this meant access to a mobility vehicle. Thanks to the incredible community effort of Burnie, this is now a reality! What makes this story so powerful is how it came together.

It began with Matty's grandmother, who quietly saved \$10,000 to get things started. The Rotary Club of Burnie West then rallied the community for donations which was matched at \$15,000 through RAWCS's Rotary Australia Community Grant (RACG), while Burnie Mazda generously covered the remaining cost of the vehicle. This is RAWCS in action: community, collaboration and compassion coming together to change a life.

Stories like this reflect RACG's core purpose of restoring dignity, stability, and hope where it is needed most.

Supported by strong governance,

rigorous verification and transparent reporting, RAWCS ensures every RACG dollar reaches the right people at the right time. As demand continues to rise across Australia, RAWCS is seeking expanded funding partnerships to grow the RACG grant pool, strengthen emergency responses and support more individuals facing crisis.

Your donation could go twice as far. Through the Rotary Australia Community Grants programme (RACG), eligible RAWCS donations can be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$15,000. That is double the impact for communities across Australia and around the world.

Register your RACG project today!
<https://directory.rawcs.com.au/RegistrationRACG.aspx?>

Australian
Rotary
Districts

