



UPDATE FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

Bren Arkinstall

Welcome to the first update from our new CEO.

In this update, Bren will discuss what is happening in the ERFA Office and provide updates on ERFA funded programs, upcoming events and other information for you as members of ERFA's community.

Firstly, let me introduce myself..

I am extremely humbled and excited to write to you as CEO of Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia). As an old boy of St Patrick's College, Shorncliffe, I am also very excited to be 'back home'.

For the past decade I have been working in fundraising and operational management roles within the not-for-profit sector, mainly in the areas of disability and education.

Whilst I am a Brisbane boy, I am currently living in Melbourne and based at our Head Office in Parkville. In my first 7 weeks on the job I have come to understand ERFA is doing some amazing work both here in Australia, and also through the programs we support all over the world.

is also very clear to me that we are tremendously supported by members of the Edmund Rice community including our supporter groups and schools. It is that support that enables our funded programs to make such an impact, and we are truly grateful for it.

I hope you enjoy reading the following updates about ERFA and I look forward to providing you with more of these throughout the year as I learn more about our work.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Bren Arkinstall

Staff Update

ERFA's Compliance Officer Br Robert Stone will now be chairing our Monitoring and Evaluations Group. Br Robert will now be the first point of contact for all of our Program Leaders on all matters relating to reporting.

Br Robert has a wealth of experience in the area of compliance, accreditation and reporting requirements and is a key part of our commitment to working more effectively with ERFA supported programs.

Br Robert assumes the role from Br Bill Wilding. Br Bill will still be a key member of our Monitoring and Evaluations Group, as well as continuing his invaluable work with many of our partner Schools and supporter groups.

Gone Fishing

I will be heading to visit our programs in Africa this June, as part of our *Gone Fishing* Immersion Program. *Gone Fishing* is such an integral part of what we do at ERFA as it creates lifelong connections and a deeper understanding of the level of poverty and adversity others less fortunate than us face.

I'm also keen to investigate the expansion of this program to include other areas such as East Timor and the Philippines and to incorporate immersions to our locally funded programs here in Australia.

The next immersion to Africa for *Gone Fishing* will be held in October 2017. If you are interested please [contact us here](#).

What's next for ERFA

This year ERFA will look to the future with an open mind as we review our strategic plan. The next strategic plan will take ERFA past 2020 and will set a long term and sustainable vision for our organisation.

We look forward to engaging with our supporters and program leaders during this process to gain a clear understanding of what we do well and what we need to improve.

Some of the key focus areas will be communication, program management, financial sustainability, school relationships and fundraising.

Our next strategic plan will set a clear path for us to be able to provide more support to the people around the world who need it most.

What are we supporting in 2017

This year ERFA is supporting development programs in 10 countries including Australia. Programs will provide sustainable outcomes in health & disability services, education, empowerment of women, skills building and agriculture.

Total funding will be A\$2.2m with more than \$300k earmarked for Australian programs. If you'd like to know more, please feel free to [contact us](#) or you can [donate here](#)

Upcoming Events

Thursday May 4	500 Supporters Group AFL Luncheon, Melbourne
Friday May 5	Prawns on the Lawn, Brisbane
Saturday May 27	Terrace Timor Network Festa
Friday June 2	Rainbow Ladies Luncheon, Sydney

[View our Events page for more upcoming events](#)

Thank you to everyone who supports our organisation and I look forward to working with you. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to talk to me about the work that we do.



Bren Arkinstall

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CEO UPDATE (April 2017)

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