



Bishop's Office
5 Lyons Street South
Ballarat VIC 3350

P.O. Box 576
Ballarat VIC 3353

Phone: (03) 5337 7121

E-mail: bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

May 17, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am writing to encourage involvement in the mission of Palms Australia.

Since first being prepared in 1961 for mission to Papua New Guinea, Catholic participants from all over Australia have been placed in 40 countries, assisting the development of 408 communities globally. As COVID restrictions on international travel continue to ease, new skilled and committed applicants are being prepared for their intercultural mission in remote parishes, schools and communities abroad.

I encourage you to publish bulletin notices that Palms Australia sends you that promote opportunities for individuals to engage in a Palms Global Mission.

Our Diocese of Ballarat will support the costs of preparing Palms program participants for mission and a re-entry weekend upon return from mission placement abroad.

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.

The Palms mission offers the rewarding challenge to reach beyond cultural 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).

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop of Ballarat