



THE ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

3 July 2015

Dear Father,

Many communities overseas have far fewer opportunities than we do with the advantage of an Australian education. They need your help to recruit teachers, health and community development workers, administrators, agricultural workers and others. As well as working in places like East Timor, PNG, Kenya, Kiribati and Samoa, those recruited will help to mentor local workers in these fields, so that opportunities for future generations are sustainable.

Pope Francis has reminded us that “today God asks this of us: to leave the nest which encloses us in order to be sent”. Those sent inevitably return enriched by this experience of mission. Our schools and parishes can also benefit by following the progress of their mission abroad.

I pass on this request as part of a recruitment drive to be undertaken by Palms Australia, the Catholic agency that prepares people for global mission and development volunteering. For nearly 55 years Palms has equipped and supported Australians who are willing to share their lives and skills. For example, Palms supports Guida Cabrita (palms.org.au/volunteers/guida-cabrita/) from Brisbane, who is working for two years with two schools in East Timor.

The Church supports those who take up a global mission placement in many ways:

1. The Archdiocese has agreed to cover the cost of Palms’ orientation course and a re-entry weekend on return.
2. The Bishops support a Lay Missionary Gratuity Fund that next year will provide a payment of \$2500 for each year on mission.
3. Brisbane Catholic Education has agreed to give teachers up to two years leave without pay to engage in global mission with Palms and count it as equal to time in Archdiocesan schools in terms of advancement on the salary scale and long service leave.

Palms Australia will send notices that can be published in your bulletin to assist with recruitment of those fit and healthy 21-81 year olds who are qualified and experienced in their fields. Please bring these notices to the attention of your community in any way you can. Simply doing so is an opportunity to give impetus the evangelising mission of the Church.

As always in the Lord,

Archbishop of Brisbane

The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge

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