

## HANDS ACROSS THE WATER

(the charity) was formed in 2005, in the aftermath of the Boxing Day tsunami. The initial goal was to support the building of a home for Thai children left without someone to care for them. The support from the Charity expanded its reach to areas beyond those affected by the tsunami and in 2010, commenced supporting children in a home in Yasothon who were HIV positive or had lost their parents to HIV or both. The growth of the work of the Charity continued to support a number of well-established Thai foundations and today Hands Across the Water operates seven different properties across Thailand.

Hands Across the Water Thai Foundation was formed and is a registered Foundation with local authorities and complies with Thai Government regulations. The Foundation has a board of directors and is the legal entity that owns a number of the properties in Thailand in which we operated. Our operations in Thailand have been endorsed by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Hands Across the Water has raised in excess of \$25 million AUD or 650 million Baht and 100% of those funds have gone to the communities we support in Thailand and continues to contribute more than \$2 million or 50 million Baht per year, making it the largest ongoing contribution to Thailand from any Australian or New Zealand charity. This has been possible through the unique structure of having a social enterprise Hands Group, underwrite the operating and fundraising costs of the charity.

**The measure of success is the choice we create for the children when they choose to leave one of our homes.** Our belief is that we have really only been successful when the children have received the skills and education to afford them and their children a life of choice rather than one of chance.

## WHAT HANDS DOES

We provide food, a safe home, and an education for the children.

We empower the children and staff, while respecting their culture and acknowledge that the best people to raise Thai kids are Thais and provide the resources they need to help the children develop in a nurturing and loving way.

We don't operate from a religious or political standpoint.

We believe that all things being equal, the best place for children is with their family. But when things aren't equal, or those opportunities don't exist, then we provide solutions.

## HOW HANDS KIDS COME INTO CARE

- Orphaned or abandoned
- Suffering abuse or neglect
- Having received insufficient care

The children removed from these locations are often unwell, malnourished, in need of medical care, and school is but a dream.

## FAST FACTS



We have raised over AU\$29,000,000



Each night over 350+ children will sleep in a comfortable bed waking up safe



Running our homes costs \$1.6m per year



In one year we provide 328,000+ meals to the children and communities we support



We currently have 46 students at University