

BUDDHIST
COMPASSION RELIEF

Tzu-Chi Foundation Australia

Impact Report
2025

Three Decades of
Compassion & Care
in Australia





35 Years of Compassion and Relief in Australia

Since 1992, Tzu Chi volunteers have worked alongside communities across Australia through four core missions—Charity, Medicine, Education and Humanistic Culture—while supporting recovery after floods and bushfires and advancing climate initiatives to protect our Earth.

When we stand on another's land and under another's sky, we should draw from local strengths and bring relief where it is needed — giving love that truly takes root in the community."

– Master Cheng Yen to early volunteers of Tzu Chi Australia



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Message from the CEO

Dear Tzu Chi members and volunteers,

Since its founding, Tzu Chi has upheld the spirit of compassion and service to humanity. Guided by Dharma Master Cheng Yen, who established the Tzu Chi Merit Association in Hualien in 1966, our mission has now reached 60 years and 137 countries.

In Australia, since 1992, countless volunteers and members have devoted themselves to Tzu Chi's work — serving with steadfast compassion and unity. I sincerely thank each of you. Your care has illuminated many corners of Australian society and inspired new generations to continue this path of kindness.

In 2024, Tzu Chi's footsteps of love never ceased. Across the country, volunteers contributed 3,742 volunteer engagements and over 14,378 service hours, reaching approximately 13,050 people through medical outreaches, food and scholarship programs, community visits, environmental efforts, cultural education, and disaster relief. Our care extended to elders, refugees, students, struggling families, disaster survivors, Indigenous people, and residents in remote areas — every act made possible through your support.

Looking ahead, in 2025 we began building the Tzu Chi Integrative Community Health and Wellness Centre in Brisbane — our first community clinic in Australia. It will serve people who face barriers to mainstream healthcare, offering essential medical and social support. The centre will open in early 2026, and I invite all members and volunteers to join hands in this milestone through service and contributions.

"May we learn and attain awakening with mindfulness. May we walk on the Bodhisattva Path with diligence", these words guided us in 2025. Let us work collectively for our home – Australia, upholding Tzu Chi's Four Missions — Charity, Medicine, Education, and Culture — so that everyone who steps into our centres experiences joy, purpose, and the be inspired with goodness.

Wishing all our members and volunteers peace, good health, and the dual cultivation of blessings and wisdom in the year ahead.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Randy Yi-Kang Sung
Chief Executive Officer
Tzu Chi Foundation Australia



Five-Year Review

2020–2024

The past five years have been among the most turbulent in recent decades - marked by a global pandemic, war, mass displacement, inflation and economic uncertainty. Amid these challenges, Tzu Chi Australia's volunteers have continued our steady footsteps to deliver hope and assistance to those in need.

Over the past five years, we have focused on sustaining volunteer commitment — particularly among young people — while providing accessible livelihood and healthcare support through targeted outreach linked to ongoing services, and maintaining the agility to respond swiftly and respectfully to disasters.

Amid the challenges of the pandemic, we also completed the Tzu Chi Brisbane Community Centre, a milestone that embodies Tzu Chi's humanistic mission and serves multiple community purposes.



Guided by the teachings of our founder, Master Cheng Yen, Tzu Chi Australia strives to support the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society — mobilising people with resources, skills, and time to stand alongside those facing the steepest barriers. This ethos makes benevolence a shared practice: it shapes how our volunteers organise, how we build partnerships for a common purpose, and how immediate relief connects to long-term care.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Tzu Chi volunteers, supported by our global network, provided Australia's healthcare system with urgently needed personal protective equipment (PPE), emergency relief, and "Care Packages" for people in isolation. Despite restrictions and public health measures, volunteers continued serving their communities, ensuring that the spirit of kindness in society never ceased.



“Helping the underprivileged and educating the prosperous. Go deep into communities and guide the affluent to help those in need.”

– Master Cheng Yen

SALISBURY COMMUNITY CENTRE

A welcoming hub focused on strengthening community resilience by supporting individuals and families experiencing hardship through Tzu Chi's charity programs, while also hosting cultural appreciation activities such as tea ceremonies, flower arrangement and yoga that foster connection and belonging. The Centre convenes joint events with not-for-profit partners and has formally signed an agreement with Brisbane City Council to serve as one of the city's designated emergency shelters in times of disaster.



JING SI BOOKS & CAFE

A plant-based cafe and book space where the fragrance of books, tea, and culture bring people together. Offering extensive eco-friendly products, it provides immersive experiences and cultural workshops through which messages of kindness, wisdom and care for the Earth are shared throughout the community.



Note: The Tzu Chi Early Learning Centre and Jing Si Books & Café are independently owned and operated entities and are not under the governance or management of Tzu Chi Australia.



TZU CHI EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Inspired by Tzu Chi's philosophy, this bi-lingual English and Mandarin early learning service nurtures the spirit of Great Love and humanistic values from early childhood. Children develop a strong sense of gratitude, respect, empathy, self-leadership and environmental stewardship, fostering holistic development through hands-on learning experiences and role modelling.





Since 2020 Tzu Chi Australia has delivered:

Volunteer Capacity

15,924 volunteer engagements contributed over 59,900 hours of service, valued at over \$3.64 million in-kind.

Charity Care

Support provided to 4,825 individuals experiencing economic stress and personal duress. 3,454 volunteers personally visited, listened and tailored help to each persons’ unique circumstances—from recent arrived refugees to family hardship, ill health, or disaster recovery.

Healthcare

5,341 free treatments delivered through the Inclusive Health Clinic (Brisbane) and 79 medical outreach events nationwide—advancing health equity for rural communities and vulnerable groups. Total care value: A\$1.86 million.

Food Security

Over 46,000 meals/grocery parcels provided to families in need. Packed and delivered by over 10,000 volunteers, the meals not only reduce immediate stress but build long-term trust and pathways for ongoing support.

Disaster Recovery

Rapid-response teams delivered \$973,000 worth of emergency cash cards and eco-blankets to over 1,989 persons affected by floods and bushfires throughout Australia from 2020–2024.

Youth Development

200+ youth engaged annually—co-creating programs, building global citizenship competencies, and practicing servant leadership that translate directly into real community service.

Contribution of Volunteers AND IMPACTS IN CHARITY & MEDICINE 2020–2024

	 Total Volunteers	 Man Hours	 In-kind Value (AUD)	 Beneficiaries Reached
2020	3,021	12,297	\$747,946.58	10,302
2021	3,202	11,724	\$713,064.30	11,477
2022	2,554	9,059	\$551,000.09	7,495
2023	3,405	12,443	\$756,796.40	12,547
2024	3,742	14,378	\$874,489.87	13,056
Total	15,924	59,900	\$3,643,297.24	54,877

Grounded in Buddhism yet universal in service, Tzu Chi volunteers extend compassion beyond religious, cultural and social boundaries, strengthening inclusion, dignity and resilience across communities throughout Australia.

Note: In-kind value is calculated at fair-value based on the national full-time adult average weekly ordinary time earnings (2025).



Where We Worked



Key Highlights by Location

We have offices in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, with our national headquarters in Sydney. Each site serves as a hub for our missions, volunteer training and community learning. Tzu Chi Australia is part of the global Tzu Chi network providing aid to 136 countries and counting.

Impact Snapshots

“When the unfortunate cannot find help, **those who are blessed must go to them.** Tzu Chi’s foundations have been built brick by brick, one bag of cement at a time, gathered through the **collective effort of many.** Without so many people pitching in, there would be no Tzu Chi. And without Tzu Chi, there would be no way to **bring Bodhisattvas together.** From its humble beginnings—starting with just 50 cents TWD (about 2 cents AUD) —our mission has remained unchanged: **to act with compassion in times of disaster and to practice self-reflection in times of peace.**”

– Master Cheng Yen



COVID-19 Response

In partnership with the Queensland State Government, Tzu Chi also delivered 7,617 Care Packages to individuals and families in isolation. These efforts protected frontline workers, comforted those confined in isolation, and strengthened community resilience and compassion during one of the most challenging times in recent history.

During the pandemic, we acted swiftly to support healthcare workers and vulnerable communities across Australia. Working with our global network, we delivered 228,301 pieces of PPE and medical supplies, 2,303 handmade fabric masks, and 5,944 plant-based meals to medical institutions, emergency services, government agencies, and community groups.



“The invaluable service provided by the volunteers is greatly appreciated by the Tara community. In this day and age, it’s almost unbelievable that people can be so nice.”
- Tara resident



“Toowoomba now hosts Australia’s largest Yazidi community; Kurdish Kurmanji is the city’s second most-spoken language.”
- 2021 Census



TARA Medical Outreach

Tara is a small rural town about 300 km west of Brisbane, where many residents must travel more than an hour to access dental care. With a median weekly household income around half the state average, oral healthcare is often treated as a luxury rather than a necessity.

Tzu Chi volunteers first visited in 2007 and now return each Easter, transforming the community hall into a temporary health centre with more than 18

treatment rooms for dental, medical, physiotherapy, podiatry, optometry and acupuncture services. Among the most challenging—and most valued—services is on-site denture fabrication, restoring smiles and confidence within a short three-day visit.

In 2024, 146 volunteers, including 61 clinicians (doctors, dentists, allied health professionals and students), delivered 707 treatments with an in-kind value exceeding A\$172,000.

TOOWOOMB Refugee Dental Fair

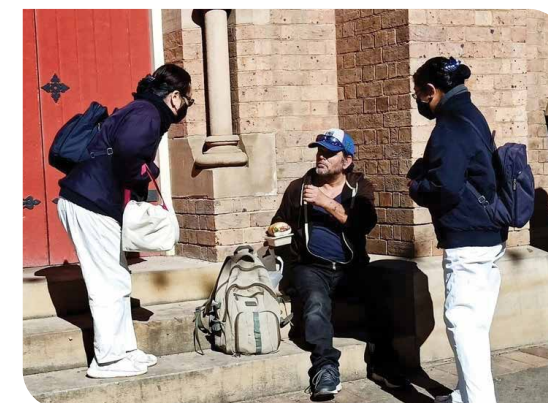
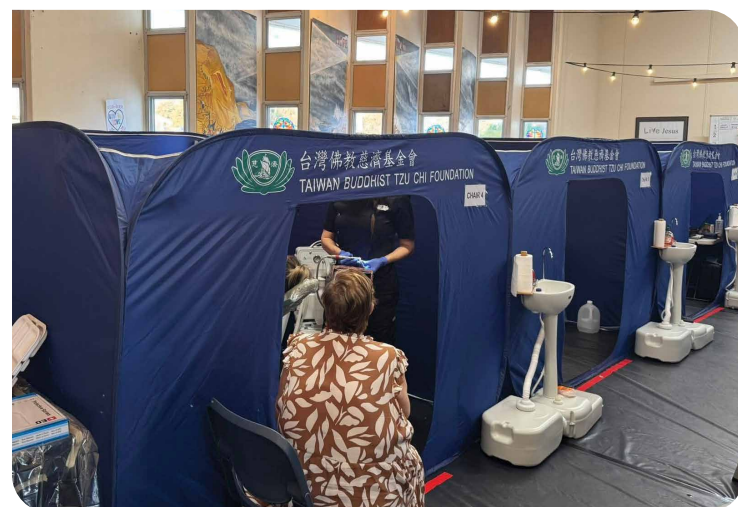
Refugees and people seeking asylum in Toowoomba face a waiting of over 2 years for public dental treatment and often cannot afford private care. The city is home to Australia’s largest Yazidi community, with settlement agencies noting rapid growth since 2017—making culturally safe, locally delivered care essential.

Our annual one-day dental fair, in partnership with Darling Downs Health and Multicultural Australia provide free check-ups, fillings, extractions and oral-health education. In 2024, the fair treated 79 patients, with an estimated in-kind value of A\$28,800.

Beyond immediate relief, the model is helping to ease public waiting lists and reduce potentially avoidable emergency presentations for dental pain.

“ I can't believe it—it didn't hurt at all! Thank you so much. I will tell everyone I know about Tzu Chi! ”

– **Tammy**
Patient who avoided the dentist for 20 years due to past trauma.



“ This food parcel allows me to pay for other things my boy needs ”

– **one mother**

KALGOORLIE Dental Outreach

In Kalgoorlie, the prosperity of the mining belt sits beside high unmet oral-health need—particularly in Aboriginal communities—made worse by periods without a resident public dentist and out-of-pocket costs that put care beyond reach. In response, Tzu Chi, the Ninga Mia Fellowship, Salvation Army Kalgoorlie Boulder and Goldfields Family Dental joined forces to run a free, culturally safe clinic, combining Tzu Chi's mobile dental units with a mobile X-ray chair and volunteer teams.

In 2024, we delivered 340 treatments valued at A\$75,965. What began with one clinician recognising a gap has grown into a partnership that crosses professions, postcodes and cultures—turning structural barriers into completed care. Now in its second year, the outreach fills a critical gap in a region where dental services are limited and travel costs are prohibitive, restoring smiles and dignity close to home.

FOOD PARCEL Programme

As the saying goes, “Bread is the staff of life.” For many vulnerable families, this simple truth is a daily struggle.

With cost-of-living pressures rising, migrant, refugee, and low-income households continue to face challenges in maintaining healthy diets — a need Tzu Chi recognised long ago. For more than 20 years, Tzu Chi Brisbane has operated fortnightly fresh grocery distributions, supporting families who found it difficult to put dinner on the table.

Fresh groceries not only promote health and nutrition but also enable families to prepare meals that reflect their culture and traditions. Over the past five years, Tzu Chi volunteers have delivered more than 46,000 parcels and meals to households in need across Australia. Through personal visits to care families, volunteers build genuine connections — checking in, listening, and linking families to healthcare, emotional support, and financial assistance. Each food parcel is more than a package of supplies; it is a message of care and a source of hope and stability.





“ Dreamcatcher allows our children to express themselves in ways they never could before. ”
— one mother



“ On the day when the volunteers came, I was at my lowest. I am so grateful for the care and condolences of Tzu Chi. It gives me courage and allows me look at rebuilding my home. ”



Dreamcatcher & Parent ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Launched by collegiate volunteers in 2021, the Dreamcatcher Program began as tutoring for refugee children and has since evolved into a platform that helps them explore the arts, sport, and culture — nurturing confidence, resilience, and social belonging. We believe that the hope of society lies in its youth, and the hope of youth lies in education.

Regardless of ethnicity, language, or background, every child deserves a complete and joyful education that opens the door to a brighter future.

Alongside this, the Parent Enrichment Program supports women from refugee, migrant, and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds through mentoring, financial literacy, computer skills, and sewing circles — helping to build self-esteem and employability. Both initiatives are youth-driven: collegiate volunteers design, deliver, and continuously expand these activities, creating an inspiring cycle of learning, empowerment, and compassion across generations.

DISASTER Assistance

As a member of regional and local disaster management groups, Tzu Chi activates anticipatory action at the first signs of escalation. In the 2022 South-East Queensland floods, volunteers went door-to-door in the hardest-hit suburbs to assist with clean-up efforts and deliver cash cards and eco-blankets, helping families stabilize with dignity and link to further support. After the 2023 Darling Downs bushfires, we again assisted affected households with emergency cash-card assistance and well-being check-ins.

Since the 2011 Brisbane floods, Tzu Chi has supported more than 11,474 individuals with over \$3.23 million in aid across Australia—working alongside councils, emergency services and community partners to put help in the hands of those who need it most.

FROM POP-UP CLINICS TO YEAR-ROUND CARE

Tzu Chi Australia's Free Medical & Dental Services 2002–2025

Across Australia, many people still live without access to affordable dental and primary health care. Remote towns lack resident clinicians; public systems serve only those eligible for welfare; and refugees or asylum seekers often fall outside Medicare coverage. These gaps leave thousands in pain and isolation.

Tzu Chi's healthcare mission began in 2002, when young dentists and students set out to rural Central Queensland with one belief — to go where the need is, and stay until suffering is relieved. Guided by that same spirit, Tzu Chi now delivers medical outreach services across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia, while providing year-round continuity of care through Brisbane's Inclusive Health & Wellness Hub, operated with by Micah Projects and Tzu Chi, in collaboration with Mater Misericordiae Ltd, Princess Alexandra Hospital, and St Vincent's Private Hospital Brisbane.

Since 2007, Tara has served as a proving ground for Tzu Chi's rural outreach model. Over one weekend, volunteers transform a community hall into a clinic with 18 treatment spaces, delivering multidisciplinary healthcare including dental, medical, physiotherapy, podiatry, and Traditional Chinese Medicine. Since 2015, Tara's "3-day denture pathway" has restored confidence to those who had waited years for new teeth—triage and impressions on day one, try-ins on day two, and final fit before closing.

In 2024, volunteers from Perth replicated this model in Kalgoorlie–Boulder, working with The Salvation Army, the Ninga Mia community and the Goldfields Family Dental to address entrenched barriers to care. The pop-up format provides urgent treatment and chronic health screening while linking patients to ongoing local support. Building on success, Kalgoorlie is set to become an annual service with stronger prevention and follow-up components.

Since 2012, the Sydney TIMA Dental Fair has brought free dental care to Western Sydney's most vulnerable communities—first in Blacktown, and in 2025 serving the suburb of Dundas in Parramatta. Each fair unites over 100 volunteer clinicians and students to provide extractions, fillings, oral health education and compassionate support for those unable to access mainstream services. The move to Dundas ensures the program continues to go where the need is greatest, reflecting Tzu Chi's enduring mission to bring both professional care and personal warmth to every patient.

Since 2002, over 17,900 treatments valued at approximately A\$8.6 million have been provided nationwide.

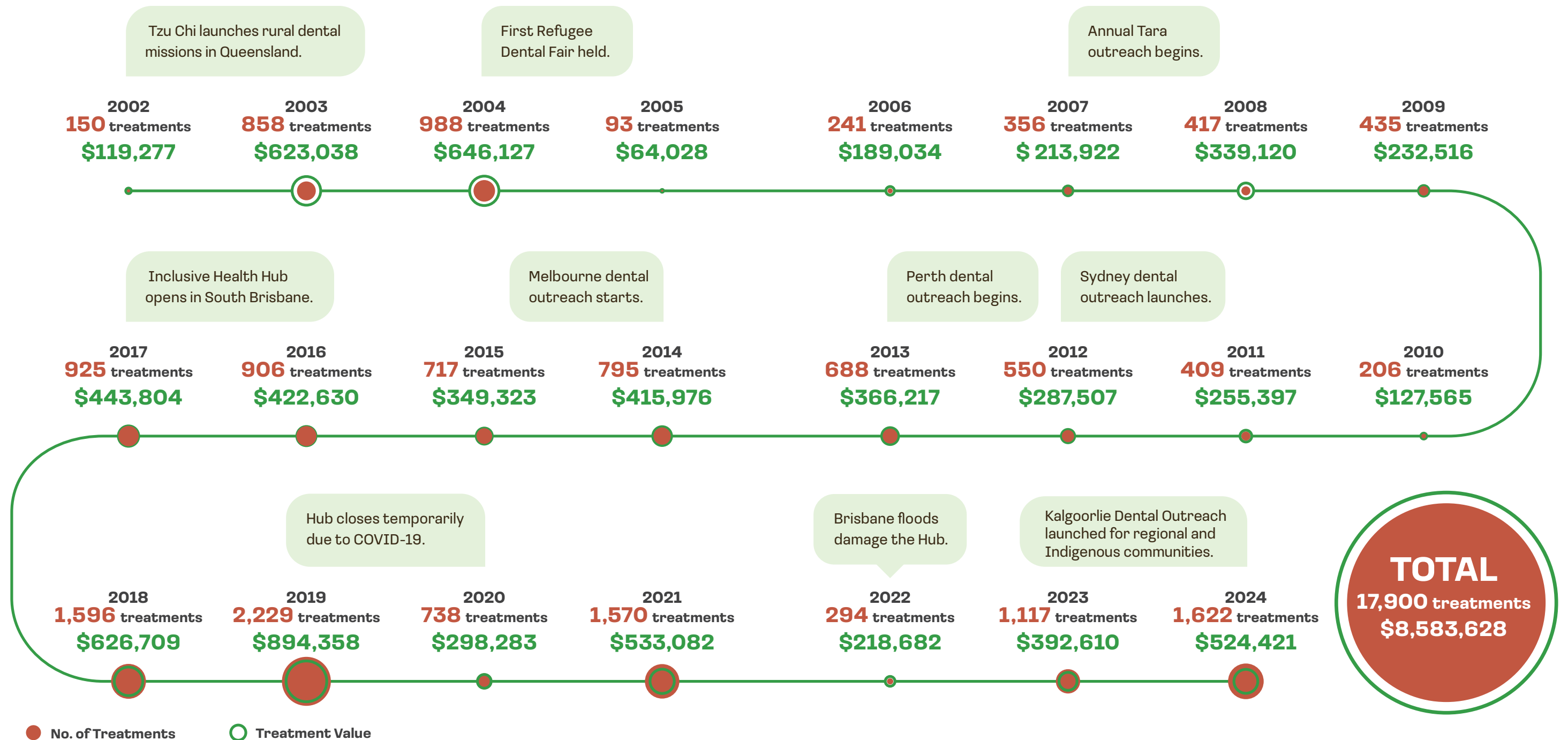




More than just oral health

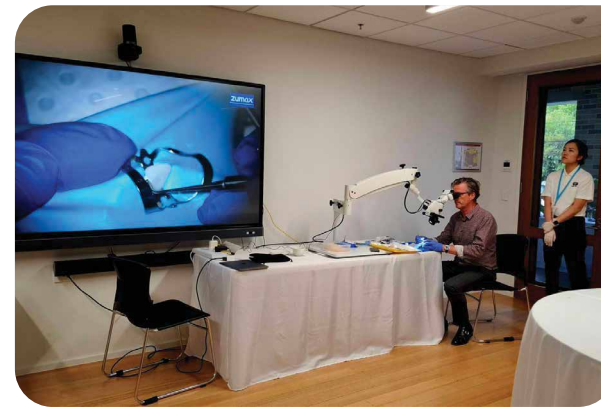
Treatment Value of Free Clinics since 2002

A longitudinal study published in the [Journal of Patient Experience](#) found that participants in Tzu Chi's outreach clinics reported improved oral health, self-esteem, and community connectedness, alongside strengthened local partnerships and volunteer development. It also highlighted prevention and integrated health promotion as key to lasting impact.¹



¹Nagae A, See L, Lu A, Gan CCR. Reflections on Long-Term Dental Outreach: Insights From Stakeholders in Rural Australia. *Journal of Patient Experience*. 2025;12.

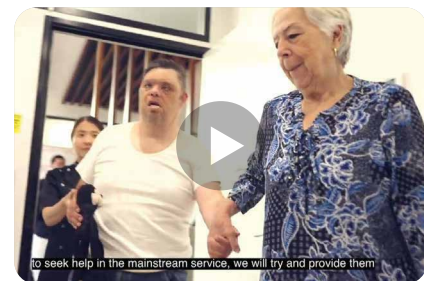
All amounts are shown in Dec-2024 AUD, converted from nominal year totals using the ABS Consumer Price Index (All groups). Values are rounded to the nearest dollar.



COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTRE

In early 2026, Tzu Chi will open the Integrative Community Health & Wellness Centre within the existing Brisbane Tzu Chi Community Centre, expanding year-round access to inclusive, affordable care. With multi-chair dental, medical, and allied-health rooms, interpreter support, sensory-friendly spaces, and dedicated denture workflows, the Centre will serve as both a care hub and training base for metro and rural outreach teams.

Our goal remains simple: no person should be denied the care they deserve because of distance, cost, or circumstance.



Watch
Henry's Story

A Journey of Love, Compassion and Giving is Recognised

We also celebrate the dedication of our volunteers.

Dr Alice Lu, a long-time TIMA volunteer and recipient of the Australian Dental Association Queensland's Distinguished Service Award, exemplifying our spirit of compassion. Whilst still at University, Alice worked with fellow young volunteer dentists to pioneer the rural dental outreach services in rural Queensland and continues to mentor young health professionals in holistic healthcare till this day.



Community Event of the Year:

Tzu Chi International Medical Association Global Forum

BRISBANE, FEBRUARY 2025

From 28 February to 2 March 2025, the Tzu Chi Brisbane Community Centre hosted the 2025 TIMA Global Forum, bringing together more than 330 clinicians, academics, service leaders and volunteers across dentistry, general medicine, palliative and geriatric care, traditional Chinese medicine, public health, psychology and social work.

Distinguished contributors included Professor Sašo Ivanovski, Head of the University of Queensland School of Dentistry, Dr Chin-Lon Lin, Chief Convenor of the Tzu Chi International Medical Association, senior specialists from Tzu Chi hospitals, and leaders from Mater Refugee and Multicultural Health Services, Micah Projects, Metro South Health and other partners committed to

overcoming barriers to care. Through case discussions and hands-on workshops on refugee health, special needs dentistry, long-term care, minimally invasive dentistry and integrated Chinese-Western medicine, the forum examined how multidisciplinary teams can address the social determinants of health and reduce access gaps for vulnerable population.

Hosting this global meeting in Brisbane is a testament to Tzu Chi Australia's more than 20 years of volunteer-led medical outreach for people experiencing disadvantage. It also signals Tzu Chi Australia's growth as a regional hub for person-centred, holistic care, through the launch of emerging initiatives such as the Rural Dental Outreach for Indigenous People in Kalgoorlie and the Integrative Community Health & Wellness Centre.



Watch TIMA
Global Forum





SERVICE HIGHLIGHT:

Refugee & Migrant Support

Every year, thousands of refugees and migrants arrive in Australia seeking safety and a new start. Many face language barriers, trauma, and limited resources, making it difficult to access services or secure meaningful employment.

Tzu Chi Australia responds by investing in youth-driven programs that build confidence, skills, and a sense of belonging.

The Parent Enrichment Program (PEA) supports mothers from refugee, migrant and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds through practical workshops in computer literacy, financial management, résumé writing, and sewing. Guided by young volunteer mentors, participants gain new skills, self-esteem, and pathways to employment.

The Dreamcatcher Program, launched by collegiate volunteers, helps children explore arts, sport, and culture beyond academics—encouraging creativity, confidence, and connection to both their heritage and the wider Australian community.

Our work is collaborative. We partner with Mater Refugee Health Services to provide integrated medical and dental care; with the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland and Refugee Health Network Queensland to link families with essential resources; and with local universities to engage and train youth volunteers. Weekly food relief and case management ensure that families receive holistic, compassionate support—meeting both immediate needs and long-term aspirations.

Together, we create opportunities for every newcomer to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.



Watch
Migrant Support

Partnerships & Community

Tzu Chi Australia thrives on collaboration. The following partners have been instrumental in delivering our programmes and expanding our impact:

- **QLD** – Queensland State Government, Brisbane City Council, Mater Foundation and Mater Health, Micah Projects, St Vincent's Private Hospital Brisbane, Queensland Health, Multicultural Australia, Primary Health Network Brisbane, Refugee Health Network Queensland, University of Queensland, Griffith University.
- **NSW** – NSW State Government, City of Sydney Council, City of Ryde Council, Hunters Hill Council, Dundas Neighbourhood Centre, Burwood Girls High School, Marsden High School, Greater Sydney Landcare Network.
- **VIC** – Buddhist Council of Victoria, Launch Housing
- **SA** – Mount Barker District Council
- **WA** – Salvation Army, Ninga Mia Church, Goldfields Family Dental, Leeming Dental, King Edward Memorial Hospital, Perth Children Hospital.



Faith-Based Philanthropy in Action

For more than 30 years, Tzu Chi and Mater Foundation have been united by a shared faith-based commitment to relieve suffering with compassion, love and hope. Focused on advancing women's healthcare and neonatal care, Tzu Chi community donors helped establish the original New Life Centre—now Mater's Neonatal Critical Care Unit caring—which has grown to become one of Australia's largest units, caring for more than 2,000 seriously ill and premature babies each year.

More recently, Tzu Chi members supported the creation of Catherine's House for Mothers, Babies and Families - Queensland's first integrated perinatal mental health centre co-designed with parents and clinicians to support families facing depression, anxiety and other challenges in the first year of life. Together, Mater and Tzu Chi demonstrate how Catholic and Buddhist values can converge in practical, high-impact philanthropy that will benefit generations of Queensland families.

Sincerity is the most valuable form of friendship. Therefore, we pursue shared acts of goodness and steadfast partnership—awakening kindness, and standing side by side to serve our society.



Watch Youth Power





Looking Ahead

2025–2026

Reflect on the past, begin now for the future. Our future begins now—step forward and cultivate diligently. May our footprints be etched across Tzu Chi's Four Missions and Eight Footprints; everything starts with the first step.



As we look ahead to the new year, Tzu Chi Australia will deepen its commitment to serving people in need, strengthening communities and caring for the planet through an integrated approach to charity, health and social support. Guided by our mission of compassion and service, Tzu Chi continues to respond to hardship with practical care, dignity and inclusion. The new Integrative Community Health & Wellness Centre in Brisbane, opening in March 2025, is part of this broader mission—supporting vulnerable persons through coordinated health, social and wellbeing services delivered within the heart of the community.



Our Key Initiatives over the next 12 months

JANUARY

- Ethical Eating Day Promotion, *Perth*

FEBRUARY

- New Year Blessing Ceremony, *Adelaide, Gold Coast, Perth*

MARCH

- Clean Up Australia Day, *Melbourne, Perth*
- Official Opening of the Tzu Chi Integrative Community Health & Wellness Centre, *Brisbane*

APRIL

- Tara Medical Outreach, *Brisbane*
- Children's Day Camp, *Brisbane*

MAY

- Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Tzu Chi Foundation
- Brassall State School Scholarship Ceremony, *Gold Coast*

JUNE

- Annual Tzu Chi Collegiate Camp, *Brisbane*
- Winter Distribution, *Perth*

JULY

- National Tree Day, *Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth*
- Winter Distribution and Free Haircuts, *Adelaide*

AUGUST

- Toowoomba Refugee Dental Fair, *Brisbane*
- Vegetarian Awareness Week, *Melbourne*
- KEMH & PCH Neonatal Project & Vegetarian Promotion, *Perth*

SEPTEMBER

- Parramatta Dental Fair, *Sydney*
- Kalgoorlie Dental Outreach, *Perth*
- Tzu Chi Youth Camp, *Melbourne*
- Brassall State School Scholarship Ceremony, *Gold Coast*

OCTOBER

- Tzu Chi Youth Camp, *Brisbane*
- Vegetarian and Recycling workshop at Ipswich State High School, *Gold Coast*

NOVEMBER

- Participation in COP31 and regional climate-action events
- Dental Fair, *Melbourne*

DECEMBER

- End of Year Distribution, *Adelaide, Perth*
- Graduation Ceremony for Tzu Chi Academy, *Sydney, Perth, Brisbane*
- Global Tzu Chi Youth Conference, *Taiwan*



Financial Summary FY2024

As the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu-Chi Foundation Australia, we are proud to have delivered vital humanitarian and community support across Australia from 2020 to 2024. Each year, the majority of our expenditure was devoted to local programs, including direct grants and donations to Australians affected by bushfires, floods, and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as operating dental care clinics and providing ongoing support to asylum seekers, families in hardship, and vulnerable communities.

BAMBOO BANK SPIRIT

Tzu Chi's Bamboo Bank spirit began in 1966, when Master Cheng Yen invited 30 housewives to place small daily savings into bamboo coin banks to help the poor in their local community. This simple practice affirms that compassion is not measured by the size of a donation, but by the sincerity and continuity of giving.

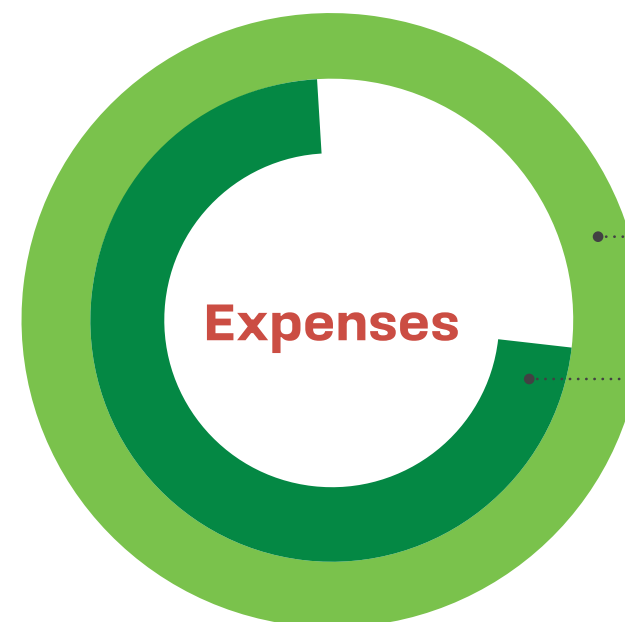
Today, the bamboo bank symbolises Tzu Chi's commitment to disciplined, transparent stewardship, where many small acts of giving are pooled together—like drops of water forming an ocean of love—to create greater and more sustainable impact for vulnerable individuals and families in the community.



Tax-Deductible Donations & Expenses FY2025 (AUD)

Tax-deductible
Donations Received

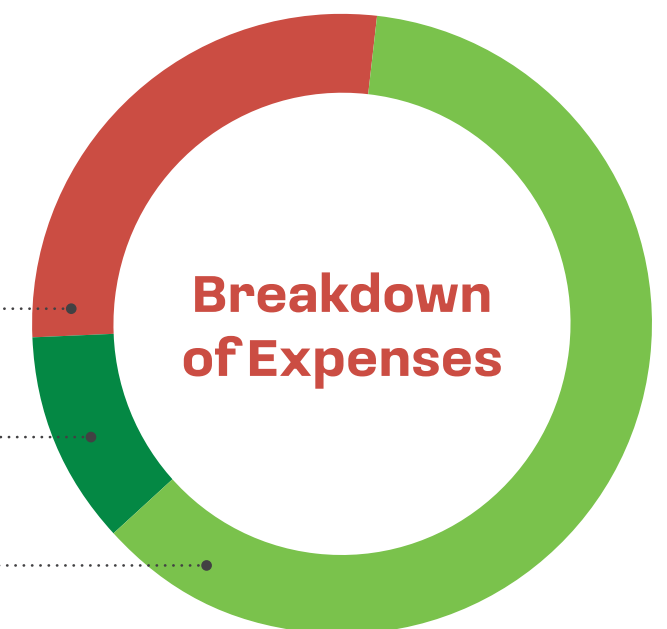
\$1,609,061



\$1,224,767

Direct Expenses funded
by Deductible Donations

\$888,803 72.6%
Direct Charity Expenses



\$335,964 27.4%
Office & Program Support Costs

\$140,000 11.4%
Approved Programs Abroad

\$748,803 61.1%
Programmes in Australia

Tzu Chi Australia holds **Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR1)** status, and our full audited financial statement is available on the **Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)** website.



A 600-KILOMETRE PILGRIMAGE OF COMPASSION:

Dr. Conway Niu and the Kalgoorlie Outreach

Dr Conway Niu, a respected specialist in paediatric and neonatal medicine based in Perth, embodies the harmony between medical excellence and compassionate service at the heart of the Tzu Chi International Medical Association (TIMA). His journey as a Tzu Chi volunteer began in 2002, when he pledged, as a medical student, to Master Cheng Yen that he would dedicate his career to practising medicine with compassion. That promise has guided his path ever since—leading him to confront healthcare inequities in some of Australia's most remote regions.



The idea for the Kalgoorlie Outreach was born during Conway's professional posting to the mining town of Kalgoorlie, some 600 kilometres east of Perth. Over three months, he witnessed the deep divide between a well-equipped public system and the lived reality of many residents—particularly Indigenous families—who faced financial hardship and limited access to consistent care.

One night, while treating a young Indigenous child with gastroenteritis, Conway learned that the family had been sleeping outdoors on a scavenged mattress, without access to clean water. "It broke my heart," he later recalled. "In such a prosperous country, no child should have to live like this." That moment became the turning point that inspired him to act.

Recognising the shortage of affordable dental services in Kalgoorlie—where public dental clinics had closed and private fees were often twice those of Perth—Conway rallied his fellow TIMA members to form a volunteer outreach team. Working relentlessly to coordinate with local partner organisations and organising logistics, Conway and his team travelled across



the desert several times, with the sole wish to bring relief where it was most needed.

The first outreach in 2024 brought together 50 volunteers and delivering 241 treatments in a pop-up clinic assembled from self-transported dental equipment. Crucial partnerships with Indigenous elder Reverend Geoffrey Stokes, paediatrician Dr Christine Jeffries-Stokes and local practice, Goldfields Family Dental helped the team build trust within the community—an essential step in overcoming historical barriers to healthcare engagement.

Now in its second year, the outreach has expanded to include health consultations, diabetes screening and physiotherapy. What began as a simple dental mission has grown into a holistic model of compassionate care—one that bridges geography, culture, and circumstance.

In Conway's volunteer journey, professionalism and empathy merge seamlessly into action. As he prepares to be certified as a Tzu Chi Commissioner at the end of 2025, Conway is reaffirming the vow he made more than 20 years ago to Master Cheng Yen—continuing his journey to reach even more people in need with compassion and quality healthcare.



When compassion moves hearts, goodness ripples across the world.

**Impermanence reminds us that every
moment is an opportunity to serve.**

Across Australia — from city clinics to remote outreach, from flood recovery to migrant care — Tzu Chi volunteers act with one shared intention: to bring compassion where it is needed most.

Together, we are part of a global network of love
in action — relieving suffering, restoring dignity,
and nurturing harmony among all beings.



**Buddhist Compassion Relief
Tzu Chi Foundation Australia Inc.**



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