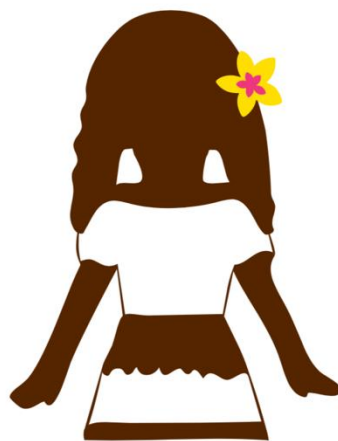


# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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a Girl &  
her world



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**a Girl & her world**

ABN 46 599 053 967

CFN/22201

# 2018

It was a very special year for our community.

Not only did we support more than *62 Girls to stay in school* – we also celebrated the wedding of our Fiji Coordinator's daughter, Kajal (below).



Our Sydney team and friends from our great supporters, the German International School Sydney, travelled to RakiRaki to take part in the wedding that went for days! Kajal was the very first Girl to be supported by our program back in 2011 and completed senior school in 2016.

Kajal has had a range of interesting work experience since graduating and now that she is settling into married life, will go back to Uni. What a joy to be part of the community celebration and to see the Girl we once knew transition into this new happy season of her life.

*“Kajal was the very first Girl to be supported  
by a Girl & her world back in 2011.”*





## Reconnecting with families:

### Shivani graduates from Nursing College

While we were in Fiji, we took the opportunity to reconnect with some of the early families supported by a Girl & her world and chat with them about how the Girls are doing. Shivani, pictured below (middle) with her mum and sister, had to leave school when she was 14 because she wasn't able to afford school fees and a uniform. We were able to help her family get her back there and she's now graduated from Nursing College. We supported her mum with a gardening and poultry business and she became self-sufficient enough to take back Shivani's school expenses with dignity and be able to regularly provide produce to her neighbours who were struggling.



**We also updated our Strategic Plan this year and started refreshing our website, we're still going, but take a look!**

# Soap-making and sewing workshop

Thanks to the hard work of our team in Australia, we were successful in our application for a grant from the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust. The grant was used to trial soap-making and sewing of menstrual pads in the local RakiRaki community. Locally-sewn menstrual pads are a more sustainable approach to menstrual health and can also lead to income-generating opportunities for local mums. A number of mums attended a workshop run by one of our team members, Bek (below, left), who travelled from Sydney to see if these might be something the women would be interested in.



We were able to leave the ingredients and materials with our local Coordinator, Urmila, who will keep working with the group to produce these items for their own use or as small business ideas.

Our wonderful supporters the **German International School Sydney** also took a group of students to Fiji to hike with Talanoa Treks through Fiji's Interior and, visit Urmila and some of the schools we work with In RakiRaki. GISS hold Christmas stalls and do fun runs and raise funds for us throughout the year and we are super grateful for their support!



Sisters Litia and Sera (left) have been supported for the last 4 years. Litia is now 21 and has joined the Fiji Police Academy. Sera is a Teacher's College. Such a joy to see Girls thriving!



While 2018 saw much joy, it was also a sad year with the tragic passing of Seniana (left), one of the first Girls we ever supported. Seniana was always so full of life and big smiles, and we loved getting to know her and her family over the past five years. She was the eldest of four children and was always by her mother's side, helping with her siblings. She wanted to work in hospitality.



# 2018 Lessons

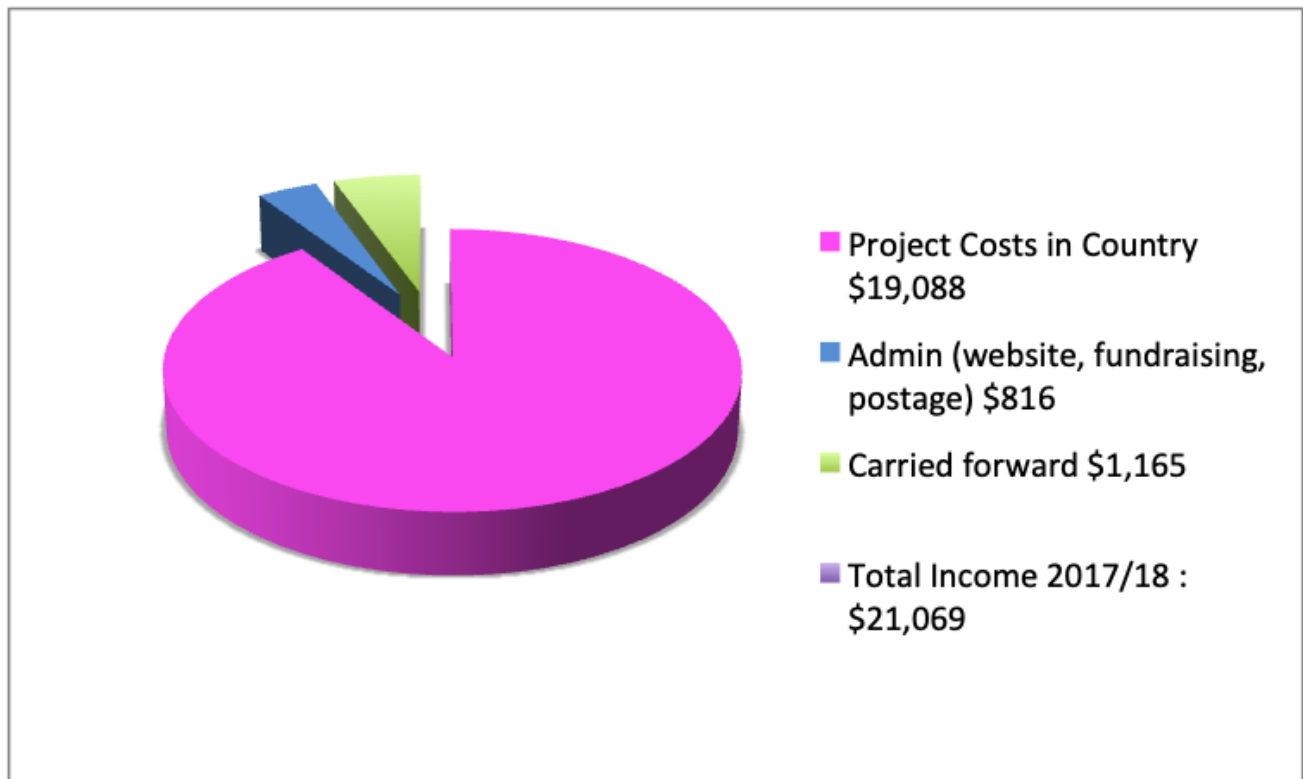
## The high cost barrier to tertiary education

It became apparent this year that there are gaps in getting Girls into tertiary study which is limiting their future beyond high school. The Fiji Government has stepped up its support for schools and primary and high school is fee-free. They also cover a designated distance for students to travel free on buses to get to school. But there are barriers to Girls getting to University or Nursing & Teachers' College, for example. We covered the barriers for one Girl this year and found that it cost around FJD\$1,300 per year. This was the total amount needed to help her get to Uni and stay there. She needed help getting set up and established. She would not have attended otherwise. We know there are many other Girls that need this type of assistance and we will begin to increase our support for these Girls in 2019 and beyond.

## Broadening our volunteer base

After six years, and the departure of some key team members, we realised that a few people simply couldn't do it all – no matter how passionate we are. We're all volunteers with kids, day jobs and study commitments. It became increasingly clear that we needed to expand our volunteer team, both in Sydney and in Fiji. We intend to identify where there are opportunities to seek additional skills from new team members. Watch this space for new faces!

# Financials



## Just so you know:

'Admin' includes things like getting business cards printed, caps made, or paying for (heavily discounted) digital and promotional costs. 'Project costs' include the costs of getting girls back to school, uniforms, shoes, bags, stationery, travel expenses, sanitary pads, one-off homework costs such as internet usage or printing. They include a 3-day per week allowance for our in-country Coordinator, Urmila, at the Fiji award rate and her costs for running the program such as a mobile phone allowance and transport. Project costs also cover expenses associated with setting families up with income-generating projects.

We never hand out cash to anyone and have accounts with a number of local businesses who provide the above items for the Girls to collect. Money is transferred to Urmila through Western Union as it is cheaper than through a bank. For security reasons, Urmila is accompanied to pick up large transfers needed to go straight to the costs of a chicken coup, for example.

A lot of our work is done by volunteers who contribute their time, resources and skill in kind and is not reflected here by income and outgoing figures. When our Sydney-based team travel to Fiji, we cover our own costs.



## THANK YOU!

Once again, our team is so grateful to our aGahw community of friends and family who support us financially and in so many other ways. We couldn't do it without you.

We love seeing the difference educating Girls makes to local families and believe in the work more than ever.

There are still, millions of Girls around the world who are not in school. We are committed, in our little corner of the earth to changing this.

When women flourish, communities thrive. We hope you'll continue to walk along side us as we play our part...

Warmly,

Jane for team a Girl and her world



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**This Annual Report was prepared by Jane Kennedy  
on behalf of team 'a Girl & her world' in December 2018.**

**In loving memory of Seniana.**