

2021 Annual Report



From the Team

Hi Friends,

Life feels both fast and slow at the moment and writing this report in the midst of a global pandemic is surreal.

But we have good stories to tell you about how your generosity is making a difference in the lives of the Girls we support. And, as always, we continue to learn from our Fiji community about what resilience looks like and how to just keep going.

At the start of 2019 we put a call out to our Australian supporters saying we had come to the point in our journey where we needed to wind down or take a Girl & her world to the next level. While the team in Fiji continued to do the work in community, our (volunteer) Sydney team were finding it hard to keep up with all that's required to remain a registered charity along with reporting and fundraising efforts here.

We were thrilled to hear from some wonderful women saying they wanted to connect and over time we welcomed Barbara, Colleen, Seema and Felicity to the team. Between them they bring many years of experience in management and governance, fundraising, data management, mentoring and creativity.

We've also had other talented friends come in and out with admin, organisational effectiveness and social media skills and we're super grateful for everyone's contribution!

So, slowly but with renewed enthusiasm, we're taking things to the next level. Thank you for sticking with us and investing in Girls' education. It's a joy to hear the ways this work is meaningful to you and why it resonates with your stories.

Warmly,

Jane Kennedy

Girls Back to Uni

We have supported four girls in 2019 and 2020 to get to University.

A few years ago, as our first cohort of Girls started to finish high school and think about their future, we started to see the very real gaps in Girls being able to get to Uni and stay there. Much like we saw in 2011, with barriers to Girls getting to school and staying there, Uni was now going to be the next hurdle.

Since 2011, the Fijian Government has taken responsibility for school fees, bus fares

(within a certain kilometre radius to school), many schools now have wi-fi access and students are provided with textbooks. This is a Government's responsibility and we are encouraged to see stability in these areas.

Barriers to school now include covering travel fares where Girls live a long way out, uniforms, stationery, or access to sanitary pads and other menstrual health items such as soap. These are not provided by schools.

We found the Uni barriers include the upfront enrolment fee, travel to and from Uni or needing accommodation around Uni. Laptops, books, stationery and daily living costs have all been prohibitive for our Girls, even when a scholarship has been provided to cover fees.

We have supported four Girls in 2019 and 2020 to get to Uni and stay there. They are studying business/commerce, hospitality, medicine and police work; and they managed to stay up to date even with the restrictions around COVID-19. They understand the power of education to change their lives!

