

AUSTRALIAN HUMANITARIAN FACTS SHEET - 2007

(Please refer to the associated International sheet for worldwide data.)

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

The Church in Australia

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the second fastest growing Christian faith in Australia during the last census period. It has approximately 116,000 members and close to 300 congregations. This is part of a worldwide membership of over 12.5 million, which is increasing at a rate of about 4% per annum. The Church operates in 173 nations and territories.

All sources of Latter-day Saint humanitarian assistance

- *Church farms* — There are Church-owned farms in Australia, 39 states of the U.S.A., Canada, New Zealand, England, Argentina and Mexico. While these farms are part of the Church's investment division, their earnings are devoted to humanitarian and charitable assistance, as well as religious purposes.
- *Fast Offerings* — Church members go without food for two meals at least once each month. The money that would otherwise have been spent for that food is given to the Church as a *fast offering* to be used to aid the poor and needy.
- *Latter-day Saint Charities* — LDS Charities, a non-government organization, is the principal vehicle through which Church monetary and in-kind aid is distributed internationally, particularly in locations where the Church is not fully established.
- *The International Humanitarian Centre* — Clothing, blankets, medical equipment and other materials are received into the Centre in Salt Lake City and distributed internationally.
- *The Latter-day Saint Foundation* — Church members who are financially secure are invited to contribute cash funds to the foundation for sole use in Church humanitarian programs.
- *Perpetual Education Fund* — This special fund provides technical, vocational and other educational opportunities for young people in underprivileged countries through financial grants and loans.
- *Deseret Industries Thrift Stores* — Church members and others who are unemployed are able to work in these stores and are paid a wage from the proceeds of the thrift store profits.
- *Volunteers* — Thousands of full-time volunteers with skills and experience in medicine, education, agriculture, social work and business serve throughout the world.

How does the Church choose relief projects?

Many Church humanitarian projects are related to disaster relief. Other projects are associated with the provision of assistance to the poor and needy. While the Church cannot provide assistance in every instance, it does so when a critical need arises that is beyond the control of those being affected and where Church assets can be brought to bear immediately to provide alleviation. The Church has close relationships with a number of outside agencies that are called upon from time-to-time for advice. The Church also does its own research with those who might be in need of humanitarian assistance.



Church officials and local workers unload humanitarian aid in Dili following the independence referendum and militia attacks in East Timor in 1999.

See pages 3 and 4 for details of humanitarian assistance provided.

The Latter-day Saint farm, “Kooba Station,” near Griffith, NSW

Why does the Church own a farm?

Kooba Station is part of an international network of Church-owned farms. Their principal purpose is to enable Church members to fulfill their Christian obligations through various charitable, humanitarian and religious efforts. Latter-day Saints believe that service to God is best exemplified in service to our fellow beings, irrespective of the religious or political orientation of the recipient. Church aid is granted worldwide based on humanitarian need, not on any other consideration. The Church’s international welfare effort is largely done behind the scenes, with much of the monetary and in-kind aid being distributed through other agencies such as the Salvation Army and Catholic Relief.

Why purchase a farm in Griffith?

The Church looked for potential farming locations across the country. It settled on Kooba Station because Griffith is a good growing area and an excellent farming community. It also is a prime location for the transport of crops and the Murrumbidgee River is the most secure water supply in the country.

Details of Kooba Station

‘AgReserves’ is the formal name of the Church-owned agricultural operation in the Riverina. However, it is better known under the title of the largest property, ‘Kooba Station.’ The Church farm was purchased in January, 1998. It is the consolidation of four properties, Kooba, Benerembah and Bringagee on the Murrumbidgee River, and Booberoi on the Lachlan River. Total land size is 46,558 hectares (115,000 acres). The farm presently runs cattle and grows wheat, barley, maize, canola, faba beans and oats. It is run using normal business management principles and is subject to the usual Australian tax requirements while pursuing its emergency relief and humanitarian objectives. The present staff of 56 largely comprises people of other faiths, except for approximately 10 Latter-day Saints scattered through various farm roles. A number of these staff, including some management, were employees under the former owners.

Integration into the local Griffith community

A small branch of 200 members of *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* is located in Griffith. The branch has grown in size since Kooba station was purchased with the influx of new farm employees. Farm management, as well as Church members from the local branch, are fully integrated into the local community. The farm, in particular, wants to be a good ‘corporate’ citizen and has provided charitable aid to various projects within the Griffith area. It will continue to do so.

Church beliefs

The teachings of Jesus Christ and His atonement and resurrection are at the core of the beliefs of the Church. The Church is regarded as a latter-day restoration of original Christianity with the same structure, priesthood authority and beliefs as those presented by the Saviour to his followers 2000 years ago.

The Church holds that marriage and the family can last into the eternities subject to certain ordinances taking place in the faith’s temples, of which there are five in Australia. These buildings are quite distinct from the 200 Latter-day Saint chapels or meeting houses which dot the country. Latter-day Saints believe the Holy Bible and the Book of Mormon to be scripture, along with certain revelations to Church leaders since the Church’s organization in 1830.



Style guide note: When reporting about *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, please use the complete name of the Church in the first reference. For a subsequent reference, the full name or the contractions “*the Church of Jesus Christ*” or “*the Church*” are appropriate. The term “*Mormon Church*” is inaccurate and unsuitable. For more information on the use of the name of the Church, go to Quick Facts and FAQ’s, Style Guide on www.media.lds.org.

Humanitarian assistance

Value of assistance provided between January 1992 and December 2006 in Australian Dollars

<u>Australia</u>		<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Cash</u>
2006	Cyclone Larry Relief Fund		200,000
	Police Force Blue Light Website – promote alcohol & drug-free youth initiatives		750
2005	Caritas Australia – for indigenous people in Western Australia		10,000
	Barnados Penrith Children’s Family Centre		10,070*
	Millennium Foundation – Westmead Hospital, leukemia research		5,500
2004	Youth InSearch Foundation		10,070*
	Millennium Foundation – Westmead Hospital, leukemia research		5,500*
	McGuinness McDermott Foundation – Womens & Children’s Hospital		976
2003	Kaurna Community - aboriginal children’s Christmas party		1,130
	Emergency relief supplies, Sydney		1,049
	EWB Food Services, – rice donation to “Just Enough Faith Organization”		1,500
	Technical Aid to the Disabled – donation to improve quality of life for disabled		1,650
	NIMACO – Richmond Rotary Club		1,650
	Lord Mayor’s Charitable Fund, Melbourne – All Faiths, One Community		1,500
	Christmas food hampers (Smith Family)		45,500*
	Donation to Humpty Dumpty Foundation		15,000*
	Australian Farmhand Foundation - drought relief		100,000*
2002	Christmas food hampers (Smith Family)		40,200*
	Red Cross Australia – emergency drought relief		96,601
	Rotary Fire Appeal, NSW – assist local bushfire victims		1,805
	Baulkham Hills Shire Bush Fire Appeal, NSW – bushfires		1,500
	Darlington Point Community Council - clinical equipment		15,208*
2001	Maize for livestock – New South Wales	321,393*	
	Food hampers for the needy, Sydney		29,013*
2000	Food hampers for the needy, Sydney		19,837*
1999	Cyclone Vance emergency relief		100,000*
	Food hampers for the needy, Sydney		23,600*
	St. Vincent de Paul - food hampers, Griffith		700*
	Barwidgee Billabong Sanctuary		1,600*
1998	Wollongong City Disaster Relief Fund – emergency response		100,000*
	Food for needy families at Christmas, Sydney		15,000*
1994	Smith Family Welfare Agency – drought relief		75,000
<u>Total for Australia</u>		<u>\$321,393</u>	<u>\$931,909</u>

Papua New Guinea

2004	Port Moresby General Hospital – bed sheets for maternity wing		691
	Cheshire Homes and Morata Four Women’s Group – community projects		1,299
	Port Moresby General Hospital – computer and accessories		1,020
	Careflight Rescue Helicopters – funds for rescue service		1,317
	Provincial Disaster Office - emergency flood relief, Madang		10,646
	Emergency food relief for flood victims, Port Moresby		7,656
	Disaster Management Centre - emergency relief for volcano victims, Madang		15,968
	Emergency relief for volcano eruption victims		26,681
	Rotary Club of Boroko – wheelchairs for the disabled		41,250
	Clean water		9,092
	Medical supplies for intensive care unit		6,810
2003	Port Moresby Hospital – shade cloth to repair windows		1,233
	School fees for returned missionaries		6,314
	Clean water for Koningi village		11,325
	Community development, Port Moresby		27,809
	Rotary Club of Boroko – wheelchairs for the disabled		57,435
	Rotary Club of Boroko – medical/educational supplies for needy, Port Moresby	242,410	15,332
	Disaster Management Centre - relief for flood victims, Morobe Province		10,831
	Port Moresby General Hospital, Operation Open Heart – medical supplies		1,311
	Badili Hardware Ltd. – materials for water project at Army, Taurama		1,165

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<u>Papua New Guinea</u> (continued)		<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Cash</u>
2002	Rotary Club of Boroko - medical equipment /supplies for needy, Port Moresby	160,455	10,919
	Potable water systems, Daru		9,115
	City College of Technology – educational equipment and books	85,814	11,297
	University of PNG – textbooks for university library	99,928	8,473
	Jacobi Medical Centre, Port Moresby – medical supplies		2,013
	Jacobi Health Centre – pharmaceuticals, Boroko	2,248	2,243
	Jacobi Health Centre – mobile clinic, Boroko		22,207
	Moim School – educational support, Boroko		7,422
	Girabu Community School support		6,650
	Rotary Club of Boroko – water and education materials	309,900	18,193
	Emergency earthquake relief, Wewak		5,948
	Foot bridge repair, Koningi		8,920
	Disaster relief (food and shelter) – fire in PNG which destroyed 10 homes		430
	Port Moresby General Hospital – medical supplies		1,731
	PAU Health Clinic – medical supplies		1,582
	Hope PNG, 9-Mile Health Clinic – medical supplies		912
2001	Safe water for villages, Alewai		856
	Pickup truck, Port Moresby		17,612
	Potable water systems, Boroko		4,160
	Sanitation systems for two settlements, Port Moresby		18,760
	Clothing and educational and medical supplies, Boroko	232,656	11,872
	Potable water systems, Analta		10,052
	Potable water systems, Boroko		2,273
	Potable water systems, Kemobolo		1,526
2000	Educational and agricultural development, Port Moresby		105,826
1998	Salvation Army, PNG - food aid distribution, Misapi		15,300*
	Emergency tsunami relief		15,000
1997	Emergency donation of food – LDS Charities		22,500
1996	Goroka Base General Hospital – mattresses for 300-bed facility		37,346
	Daru District Hospital – medical equipment	6,675	2,543
1995	Literacy and community development		94,206
1994	Daru District Hospital – medical equipment and supplies for rural health centres	1,545	5,282
	Volcano disaster emergency assistance		30,000
	PNG Port Moresby Mission - capital assistance to purchase tents		3,923
1993	PNG Port Moresby Mission – clothing/kitchen equipment to earthquake victims	145,838	8,162
	Baptismal clothing for mission	750	920
1992	Project Concern International – medical equipment, clothing, supplies	40,680	
	Total for Papua New Guinea	\$1,328,899	\$781,359

Pacific/Asia relief sourced from Australian Church funds

2004	Auckland New Zealand City Mission – donation to help the needy and homeless		860
	Moerewa, New Zealand - to rebuild fire-damaged St. Paul's Anglican Church		1,086
2002	OZ Boats for East Timor – transport donated boats from Australia to East Timor		1,805
2001	Raratonga, Cook Islands - dental kits for children		8,925
2000	East Timor refugees in East Timor		280,000
	East Timor refugees in West Timor		505,000
1999	Solomon Islands - humanitarian relief		69,300
	Fiji - educational assistance		23,800
	Mongolia - family garden training		24,000
1998	Indonesia - food aid		32,500
	Indonesia - educational aid (cash to Pakuan University)		8,500
1997	Cook Islands - emergency assistance for cyclone victims through LDS Charities		22,500
	Total for Pacific/Asian relief		\$978,276
Sub-total – Australia, PNG, Pacific/Asia		\$1,650,292	\$2,691,544
Grand total in-kind and cash donations – Australia, PNG, Pacific/Asia			\$4,341,836

*Principally sourced from Church farm – Griffith, NSW