



February 2020

Dear AMUA members

As this is my first newsletter as the coordinator for Overseas and Northern Outreach Department I will begin by tell you a little about myself and my interest in this department. I first became aware of mission work overseas as a child. We had an ABM money box on the mantelpiece in the kitchen (as I'm sure many of you did) and my mother shared information from the missionary updates mostly in Papua New Guinea. Through studying nursing and becoming a university lecturer, I had the opportunity to work for short periods of time in Hong Kong, Bhutan and Malaysia further developing my overseas interests. I have also worked for short periods in Darwin and for 12 years in the Diocese of North Queensland which includes the Torres Strait. Thus, I'm quite familiar with many of the challenges experienced in northern Australia. In 2012, I joined Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA) as an ambassador and more recently was appointed to the Board. I have been fortunate to visit with several of AOA's partner dioceses in Africa and the Middle East. In the African and Melanesian dioceses, Mothers Union members are active partners in these programs. These visits are inspirational. The work of our Lord, being undertaken by these women, is so evident and they are making a real difference in their communities.

Now to update you on our **Overseas Project** for this year. As you would be well aware by now, the project is the Parenting Program in Papua New Guinea. The plan for this year for the training team (Kathleen and Lena from Mary Sumner House and Mrs Rose Sitae the Provincial President and Mrs Ida Baure President from Popendetta) to meet and review the Parenting Program materials developed for Melanesia, to see what would work with adaptations for PNG. From there they will develop the PNG version of the Parenting Program and trial it in two parishes in Lae, in the Diocese of Aipo Rongo. Please keep the team in your prayers as they work through the parenting issues locally identified as marriage breakdown, polygamy, unplanned pregnancy and child abuse, as well as the best way to present the program locally. Please especially pray for Mrs Ida Baure as she leads this work.

The bishops of the three northern Australian dioceses (North West Australia, Northern Territory and North Queensland) have received their letters asking them to submit requests for support from the **Northern Outreach** Fund. Once all requests have been received, the ONO Fund Committee will review the requests and recommend the expenditure to the AMUA National Executive.

As you journey through the season of Lent with its focus on prayer, reconciliation, fasting and acts of mercy, please keep the PNG Parenting Project and/or the work in Northern Australia in your prayers and consider donating the money you may put aside as a result of your fasting, to the respective AMUA funds.

May God continue to bless you.

Robin

Overseas and Northern Outreach
AMU Australia