



## VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS AND SAVE LIVES

### Ready for an Unforgettable Adventure? Volunteer Overseas with AWSOM Project!

Have you ever considered combining your passion for water safety with a life-changing volunteer experience overseas? If you're a qualified swimming teacher or lifeguard, this could be the adventure you've been waiting for. Join the Australian Water Safety on the Mekong (AWSOM) Project and make a direct impact on children's lives while experiencing the beauty and culture of Vietnam, all at a reduced cost of similar volunteering packages.

#### Why Join the AWSOM Project?

The statistics are devastating. In Vietnam, it is estimated that 32 children drown every day (Unicef/TASC). Communities live along the banks of the Mekong River, where water safety knowledge is limited. The AWSOM Project, a Perth-based charity, is committed to changing this tragic reality. Our mission is to equip children in the Mekong region with vital water safety and swimming skills to prevent drownings. We partner with the local government, the Education Department and the Sports, Cultural and Tourism Centre in My Tho City to run annual clinics for disadvantaged children. You will be part of a team working directly with the community teaching water safety, providing life-saving skills to kids who need it most. It's a challenging but incredibly rewarding experience and most importantly you will be helping a cause that makes a real difference.

#### Tour Dates and Pricing

Saturday 03 October to Saturday 10 October 2026 at a cost of \$1300.00 per person.

#### What is Included in the Tour?

The journey begins in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), where the team gathers before heading to My Tho City (MTC) by bus. Once in MTC, everything is taken care of - from the water safety clinics and accommodation to most meals and sightseeing. The week is both demanding and rewarding, but past participants have described it as life-changing and keep coming back.

Join us for a one-of-a-kind volunteer experience that includes:

- ✓ **A business visa** for entry into Vietnam
- ✓ **Accommodation** inclusive of buffet breakfast (3-star hotel in HCMC and 4-star hotel in MTC)
- ✓ **Daily meals** (breakfast and lunch, some evening meals included)
- ✓ **Transport** (coach travel to MTC, local transport)
- ✓ **Team-building activities** and cultural sightseeing
- ✓ **Full support** from local representatives and Australian team leaders
- ✓ **Uniforms and equipment** (team shirt, AWSOM rash vest, and resources)
- ✓ Fully arranged **volunteer experience**
- ✓ And, of course, an unforgettable opportunity to **change lives**.

#### What is Not Included?

- Flights to and from Vietnam
- Airport transfers
- Travel insurance
- Spending money
- Some evening meals
- Vaccinations



## Itinerary for 2026 Tour

### Saturday, 03 October

- Arrival in HCMC
- Team lunch
- Team-building activity
- Pre-tour meeting
- Free evening

### Sunday, 04 October

- Travel to MTC by coach (approximately 2.5 hours)
- Welcome meeting
- Local activities

### Monday - Friday

- During your week in MTC, you will experience a perfect balance of meaningful volunteer work and exciting local culture. Your days will be filled with hands on Community Education Sessions in primary schools, Drowning Prevention Clinics in the pool and loads of fun and laughter.
- You will immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of Vietnam through various team-building activities and community engagement, connect with local children and residents, and gain a deeper understanding of the Vietnamese way of life.
- On the final day the team will also participate in a debrief session and the day will conclude with a farewell ceremony and dinner!

### Saturday, 10 October

- Check-out
- Return home after making new friends and creating lasting memories

## Why Pay to Volunteer?

As a not-for-profit organisation that does not receive any financial support from the government, volunteers are required to finance their own participation. The contribution you make helps cover the essential costs of running our charity and enables us to provide you with a valuable opportunity to contribute your skills to a life-saving mission. Our charity has worked hard to establish partnerships in Vietnam and has earned recognition as an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO). By volunteering with us, you will be involved in a project where your help is genuinely needed, and we ensure that our local partner organisations and schools are not required to cover any costs for the assistance you provide.

## Where Does the Money Go?

The AWSOM Project is an entirely independent organisation, and we do not request any financial support from our partner organisations in Vietnam. As a volunteer, your contribution helps fund our essential work, allowing us to continue making a difference in the community. The fees you pay cover a range of necessary expenses, including visas, on-the-ground transport, accommodation, daily meals, sightseeing activities, uniforms, resources, and equipment. Additionally, your contribution helps cover administration costs, such as insurance and other business expenses, ensuring that we can maintain the operations that make our life-saving mission possible.



## How to Apply

Ready to join the team? Complete the **AWSOM Project Volunteer Online Application Form** and submit it by **31/01/2026**. You will need to provide the following certified documents (all qualifications must be valid through to the duration of the tour):

### Swim Teachers:

- ✓ Australian Swim Teacher Qualification
- ✓ Working With Children Card
- ✓ CPR Certificate
- ✓ National Police Clearance
- ✓ Passport - **Note: We are unable to accept your application without a copy of a valid passport with an expiry date of at least the end of 18 April 2027 due to airline and immigration regulations.**

### Lifeguards:

- ✓ Pool or Surf Lifeguard Qualification
- ✓ Working With Children Card (Volunteer application acceptable)
- ✓ First Aid Certificate
- ✓ National Police Clearance
- ✓ Passport - **Note: We are unable to accept your application without a copy of a valid passport with an expiry date of at least the end of 18 April 2027 due to airline and immigration regulations.**

## Team Selection

Shortlisted Candidates will be contacted for an interview in February 2026. Interviews may be conducted in-person or virtual depending on circumstances.

Successful applicants will be notified by mid-March 2026. All team members must sign the AWSOM Project Code of Conduct before travelling to Vietnam. It is the responsibility of candidates to arrange their own airfares, travel insurance, and vaccinations. Travel insurance is mandatory for all participants.

Business visas will be arranged by our leadership team and issued for a maximum one-month period, in line with Vietnamese regulations. Candidates may travel to and from Vietnam at any time, provided they adhere to the listed itinerary and travel within the visa dates. Candidates will need to arrange their own transportation from MTC following the formal end of the volunteer commitment.

### Important Notes:

- Travel insurance is mandatory
- Volunteers are responsible for arranging their own flights, travel insurance, and vaccinations
- You must enter Vietnam on a Business Visa which will be arranged by our leadership team

**Ready for the adventure of a lifetime?**

**Apply now and help us make a difference in the lives of children in Vietnam:**

<https://forms.office.com/r/YzKxbwRbeV>

For more information or if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us:

**Bev Christmass & Nikki McNamara**

Co-founders, AWSOM Project

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**Anybody can drown, nobody should. Let's make a difference together - one child, one lesson at a time!**

