



Dear War Child Supporter,

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well after a well-earned break, and that you're ready to tackle another new year and all the challenges it provides. We are looking forward to the release of *Girls Night In 4* and *Kids Night In 2* during 2005 and would welcome any launch suggestions that you may have.

### **War Child Australia Reading Challenge**

A reminder that all four of the Reading Challenges conclude on 1 February. Would all adult participants please post their Reading Challenge sheets along with their cheque or money order to:

Natalie Martin  
War Child Australia  
PO Box 461  
Toowong Qld 4066

Would all schools please determine the number of books read and forward a cheque or money order for the appropriate amount to the same address.

The winners of the adult Reading Challenge will then be determined and prizes, thank you letters and certificates forwarded during term 1. Schools that hosted the Reading Challenges for students will be forwarded thank you letters and a school certificate.

Many thanks for your support and thank you to Penguin Books for supplying prizes for the adult Reading Challenge. I expect to have the 2005 student Reading Challenges ready to go in early April.

Please find below a War Child statement on the tsunami disaster and 2003-2004 annual report. It makes for interesting reading, especially as we are all concerned about whether the donations we make actually make it through as aid. It is particularly pleasing to note that War Child Australia's costs are less than 0.5% of donations and therefore more than 99.5% of donations are directly used as aid. War Child Australia can do this as all staff are volunteers.

Best wishes for 2005.  
Judith Way  
War Child Schools' Coordinator  
Vic/Tas/N.S.W./N.T./S.A./A.C.T.  
judithway@warchild.org.au

## **The South East Asian Tsunami Disaster: War Child Statement**

War Child offers its deepest sympathy to the victims of the Tsunami disaster in South East Asia and its support to those attempting to bring relief to those affected by this tragedy.

Among the areas hardest hit have been zones of some of the most vicious conflict in the modern era. Sri Lanka and Indonesia have localised civil wars that have repeatedly involved children and have devastated the infrastructure in those areas. This has severely hindered rescue and relief initiatives in the region and will continue to do so. Conflict and poverty exist in a vicious cycle in many of the poorest parts of the world – a baseline problem that renders dealing with natural disasters like the tsunami all the more difficult, in fact, near-impossible.

In 2005, War Child is committed to establishing a moral code: that children should never be affected by war, regardless of its justification. While War Child continues its vital work with children affected by conflict in Iraq, Democratic Republic of Congo, The Balkans and Afghanistan, those affected by the tsunami disaster, and involved in the region's recovery, are firmly within our thoughts.

## **War Child Australia Financial Year 2003-2004**

War Child is an international relief and development agency dedicated to providing immediate, effective and sustainable aid to children affected by war in order to build peace, resolve conflict and empower future generations.

War Child Australia commenced operation in July 2002 and is a national office of War Child UK. War Child Australia's primary roles are to raise funds for War Child's international field projects and to raise awareness of War Child's work around the world. War Child Australia is staffed entirely by volunteers.

In 2003-04 we were very successful in adhering to our aims of spending a very high percentage of our funds on field work. Administrative expenses for the year totalled \$234,500, while we delivered more than \$850,000 in overseas aid.

### **Income**

War Child Australia receives income from two sources:

- ▶ Donations from individuals, schools and community organisations
- ▶ Royalties
  - Books — the Girls' Night In series of anthologies, Making Laws for Clouds by Nick Earls, Most Valuable Potential by Darren Groth
  - CDs — Hand in Hand from Shock Records
  - Calendars — World Child 2005 by Anthea Paul

### **Expenditure**

#### **Projects in Afghanistan**

During 2004, War Child Australia contributed to War Child UK field projects based in Herat, Afghanistan. War Child Australia contributions funded building a wall around a children's kindergarten and providing a tractor for use at a community farm project. Both the kindergarten and community farm are ongoing War Child projects, and ones that War Child Australia field worker Joanna Francis was involved in implementing during her time in Afghanistan.

#### **Projects in Iraq**

War Child Australia also contributed to projects undertaken by War Child UK in Iraq during 2004. They included provision of emergency food supplies to people in Southern Iraq, educational and psychosocial programs, financial support to an orphanage in Nasiriyah, and financial support to enable the hospital in Nasiriyah to continue to operate and purchase necessary medical supplies.

### Solomon Islands book project

In 2004, in conjunction with 14 Australian children's book publishers and the Rotary Club of Brisbane Planetarium, War Child Australia sent more than 5,000 books (with a retail value in excess of \$50,000) to libraries throughout the Solomon Islands. Sets of encyclopaedias were donated to the public library in the Solomon Islands capital, Honiara, and other books were distributed to school libraries throughout the Solomon Islands by local Rotary clubs.

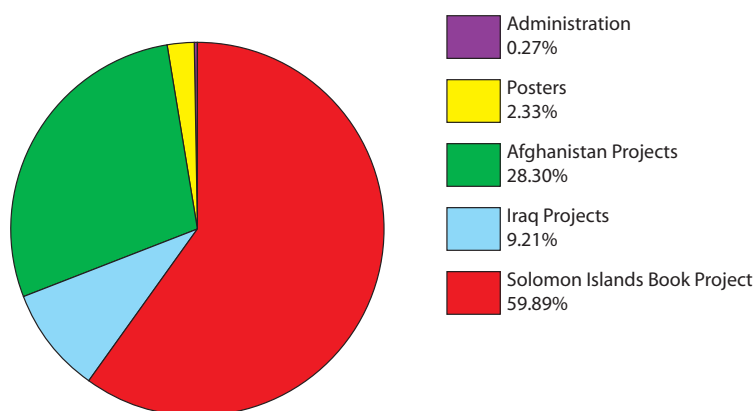
### Posters

A series of three promotional posters was produced in 2003-2004. These are used to provide information about War Child's work. They are displayed at events that raise funds for War Child and distributed to interested schools for educational use. Design of the posters was donated, and a reduced printing cost was negotiated.

### Administration costs

War Child Australia is staffed entirely by volunteers and administrative costs are kept to a minimum. They include postage, fax and telephone costs necessary for liaison with supporters and with the War Child UK office, rental of a PO box, bank fees and charges, and the costs of complying with legislation for non-profit organisations in Australia.

Figure: War Child Australia's expenditure financial year 2003-2004



*War Child Australia submits financial statements to the NSW Department of Fair Trading annually.*

### Further information

For further information or to contribute to War Child Australia's work, contact:

War Child Australia  
PO Box 461  
Toowong Qld 4066

[info@warchild.org.au](mailto:info@warchild.org.au)  
[www.warchild.org.au](http://www.warchild.org.au)