



The Dignity Project Monthly operations update

January 2024 update

Introduction

Much of the work of TDP in January was administrative: behind the scenes we are busy working on our ACNC application and have recently completed analysing the data from the Wonderkids school survey. In this update we provide a snapshot of that work.

Overseas operations update

Wonderkids, Khajuraho: As previously reported, the school will move to a new, larger premises in 2024. Preparations for the relocation of the school continues: the necessary paperwork for the building use was received in January and the landlord continues to upgrade the facilities for the move. Additionally, the school society is working (and close to) receiving a key Indian government classification (called CSR-1) that will allow it greater scope to raise funds from domestic corporations plus private local individuals. On January 12, the school held a morning of yoga as part of state celebrations to recognise an important yoga practitioner. Following the results of our recent student survey, TDP has helped Wonderkids devise an intervention strategy for the 14 students identified as unable to read or write Hindi. These students have been combined into a special class for two sessions each day and two of the most experienced teachers at the school are working to support the students and improve their literacy. Their progress will be tracked over coming months.



Items of significance (overseas)

Wonderkids survey report: In January we collated and analysed the student survey data from Wonderkids. (Attached is the full report and analysis from the survey.) As a result, the TDP board is holding a special meeting in February to consider the educational priorities and next steps for Wonderkids, which will be designed in collaboration with the Wonderkids' teaching staff this year. Here is a summary of the survey results:

Summary of student survey:

- Average number of children per family is 3.26 children; however, families of 4 children or greater not unusual
- English is the most preferred subject at school
- Most common occupation of fathers is hotel worker (cook, waiter) and mothers are predominantly housewives
- All the students surveyed think about studying to 12th class
- 96 percent of the student want to go to college
- 96 percent of the surveyed group always enjoy coming to school
- The most desired future profession is the police force
- 76 percent of students feel positive about their future
- 85 percent of student feel they have the skills needed to gain future employment
- 79 percent of students are happy all of the time, 20 percent sometimes and 1 percent not at all

From the board

The board is aiming to finalise the documents for its Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission application by the end of the first quarter of 2024. As part of that process, we have conducted a full audit of the application process and formulated a step-by-step plan on how to ready our application. More than 60 documents have been identified as necessary and we are working methodically through that process currently to prepare and collate the necessary paperwork. While at times daunting, we feel that the process will cement the processes we already have in place as an organisation and sharpen our focus and resolve for achieving our purpose. An update on the ACNC application process will be provided in the second-quarter of this calendar year.