THE DIGNITY PROJECT

The Dignity Project
Play Learn Thrive

2026 Annual Report



Across the world, the need for compassion and a collective focus on achieving dignity for all has arguably never been stronger. In a year marked by ongoing global conflicts, uncertainty, economic pressures and a torrent of bad news, we wish to acknowledge all the communities under stress, experiencing extreme hardships and in need around the globe.

While our efforts and focus remain on our communities of India, and on achieving all that we can for women, young girls, students and communities experiencing disadvantage in those communities, our hearts and thoughts extend to others.

TDP hopes for a world where dignity is achieved for all.



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OUR HISTORY

The Dignity Project, based in Australia, was officially recognised as a charity by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission in 2025 after many years of project and compliance work. However, our story began decades ago. TDP was established in 2019 by founders Lincoln Harris, Madelene Pearson and Rhan Harris, formalising under a single banner more than two decades of community projects and engagement in India. It combines their expertise and belief in education, sport and community engagement and creates a platform on which to grow previous programs.

Prior to establishing The Dignity Project, its founders operated a countrywide sports program, supported local schools and partnered with NGOs in projects to distribute women's sanitary products, all in India. In 2023 Kanwaljit Singh joined The Dignity Project in New Delhi, adding not only his compassion and never-ending patience to the board, but underscoring TDP's local knowledge and expertise in India. The addition of Kelly Durrant in 2026 in an advisory capacity,
bolsters TDP's expertise and knowledge in women's health.

Lincoln, Madelene, Rhan, Kanwaljit and Kelly are united not only by friendship and common values, but a genuine desire to promote dignity for all individuals and communities TDP engages with. They volunteer their time to lead TDP.


KIDS ENGLISH SCHOOL
KHAJURHO



A personal highlight for me was helping facilitate the visit of six Australian families to Khajuraho, for a week of intensive knowledge sharing at Wonderkids School. Seeing teenagers from Australia and India learn from each other and develop a bond over just a few short days was a reminder of the magic and power of young people.

Lincoln Harris, TDP Secretary

ABOUT US



Lincoln Harris (TDP Secretary)

Lincoln Harris helms The Dignity Project in Australia as secretary backed by a Certificate in Governance for Not-for-Profits from the Governance Institute of Australia and a rich knowledge of India gained from 30 years of living, working and travelling the length and breadth of the country. Lincoln's expertise includes an ability to examine and assess projects and communities that sit within the TDP purpose, decades of experience in travel in India and a proven ability to plan and manage complex logistics in-country. He has a track record working with NGOs in India in relevant fields and played a pivotal role in sharing Australian rules football in India, particularly through the development of pan-India Aussie rules carnivals and inclusive sporting events. He has ambitious targets for TDP for the next decade and beyond and is never deterred by the challenges working in India can present!



Rhan Harris (TDP Board Member)

Rhan Harris joins TDP with more than two decades of experience and expertise working in the not-for-profit sector in Australia, with a particular focus on disadvantaged communities and engagement through recreation and a proven ability to deliver a wide range of sports and recreation programs to those communities. Additionally, through his professional career in the not-for-profit sector he brings to TDP an understanding of risk management, fundraising and stakeholder engagement. Rhan's professional and personal interests are intertwined in sports and nutrition and his passion lies in building healthier, more active communities that foster connectedness and dignity. For more than 15 years, Rhan has been a regular visitor to India - devoting his travel in the country to not only building an understanding of people and places, but on delivering sporting events and coaching clinics to various communities along the way. Rhan is an instant role model to all those he meets on the sporting field in India.



Madelene Pearson (TDP Chair)

Madelene Pearson is a passionate Australia-based educator with experience in primary and secondary classrooms as well as international immersive study programs. As well as her knowledge in education, her media and communications background offer TDP support in both communications and marketing, as well as policy construction. She has lived in Mumbai and spent almost 25 years exploring India, giving her a valuable insight into the social and cultural environments across the country. Her passion is achieving dignity through education, and she is happiest when she is teaching and learning with young people and educators in India.



Kanwaljit Singh (TDP Associate Board Member)

Based in New Delhi, Kanwaljit Singh is The Dignity Project's India manager. Kanwaljit provides local expertise in India and a keen ability to assess overseas projects and partners based on a deep understanding of the social and cultural norms and challenges in India. He offers TDP a rare insight into locations and people within India; his curiosity for the world and people and an incredible capacity to build local connections and relationships, support the ongoing work and purpose of TDP. Additionally, Kanwaljit's professional expertise in logistics and events in India provide valuable support to in-country events and projects. Kanwaljit's superpower is his ability to listen and talk to everyone, regardless of their background, age, gender, or status and he has solved many a problem and made many new friends for TDP with his gentle manner and kindness.



Kelly Durrant

Joins the TDP board in an advisory capacity, bringing her deep knowledge and expertise garnered from working for two decades in the not-for-profit sector. With a career focused on women's sexual and reproductive health, Kelly has worked in developing nations spanning the Pacific to China and Sri Lanka, and has expertise spanning project management, capacity development, policy, advocacy and fundraising. Her experience and skills strengthen the TDP board, adding another perspective to our decision making and planning processes. Kelly's determination to achieve dignity for all women through better access to knowledge, services and products relating to menstruation will bolster TDP's women's health initiatives and help drive projects and support to women of all ages in our communities.



Among the various initiatives in the past year, our food program and health monitoring system for students have been outstanding. We observed noticeable improvements in the health parameters of most students due to our consistent emphasis on healthier food options. Additionally, the health monitoring data served as a valuable tool for identifying areas that still require improvement.

Kanwaljit Singh,
TDP Associate Board Member and India manager

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & THANK YOUS

We acknowledge all the community members that we work with in India. Without their trust and support we could not achieve what we do. We thank them deeply for allowing us to share this journey. Support for TDP comes from a range of organisations and individuals. We are grateful for all the contributions during the year which allowed us to work for dignity for all.

We wish to acknowledge the following people and their belief in our work:

- Liz and Anthony Phillips and The Phillips Foundation. Thank you for your deep belief in our work, your encouragement and your generous support.
- Unbound Travel Group
- Reece Foundation
- Reality Gives (NGO partners in India)
- The families who travelled to Khajuraho in September 2025 and gave their time, resources and energy to create magic at Wonderkids School.
- The individual donors who contributed to the 2026 Funds for the Future Campaign
- Keala Klugman Harris and her baking fundraisers that helped purchase sanitary products for women in our communities.
- Mayur Parmar and Shantanu Joglekar. We thank you for believing in us so fully and your willingness to walk this journey with us. Your contributions to TDP are integral to our work and we are grateful for your ongoing support year after year.
- Mr. Anoop Jain, Ganesh Tiwari, and all the devoted teachers at Wonderkids for their ongoing hard work and commitment, particularly to the young people at the centre of our projects.
- We also thank: Ecofemme; Baavan NGO; Nabaneetha Singh; Mr. Mehanga Singh; Mr. Ravi Kumar.

To all the hands and hearts contributing to The Dignity Project - we thank you all.

With appreciation,
Lincoln, Madelene, Rhan, Kanwaljit and Kelly

GOVERNANCE

OUR PURPOSE

The Dignity Project (TDP) is a not-for-profit, charitable and benevolent institution established in Australia solely to provide relief to young people in need in India. Our projects focus on education, recreation and women's health that support young people from disadvantaged communities. Through local projects that provide benevolent care, support, education and training, TDP seeks to enable young people in India to achieve well-being. TDP's values of dignity, inclusivity, compassion and efficacy guide all of our aims and actions.

STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

The Dignity Project Ltd is a company limited by guarantee. TDP is registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) and is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). TDP is committed to spending 100% of contributions made by supporters on project work. TDP's board are all volunteers.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Once again, it has been a busy and rewarding 12 months for The Dignity Project. Our efforts and successes have focused both on project work in India and at a board level, on planning, compliance and future-proofing TDP.

In India, we have seen significant infrastructure works at Wonderkids school to improve sanitation across the campus; the school came alive in October with a week-long program of special workshops and classes and our sanitary pad distribution centres expanded to two new locations. In Australia, the TDP board worked with focus and determination on fundraising and planning for the years to come. Every step forward and every success, be they small or large, is worth acknowledging.

One of my personal highlights from the last 12 months occurred in September 2025 with the visit of six Australian families at Khajuraho for a week of intensive knowledge sharing at Wonderkids School. During that week, six incredibly generous, creative and enthusiastic adults worked with their teenage children to deliver rich, hands-on learning for our almost 200 local students at Wonderkids.

I watched in awe as projects from animation, to embroidery, to Lego competitions and making model human intestines unfolded for Indian students more accustomed to textbook-based classes and rote learning. At the same time, on the school sports field local students were delighted to participate in back-to-back sports lessons led by two Aussie teenagers, very passionate about sport. Seeing teenagers from Australia and India learn from each other and develop a bond in just a few short days was a reminder of the magic and power of young people. It was a week I will never forget and I am sure that is the same for all involved.

As an organisation, TDP's first public fundraising campaign was an important milestone in our story and comes after we achieved charity status from the Australian charities and not-for-profit commission last reporting period. While our target fundraising goal of $248, 900 was not met, we raised funds for a number of new and ongoing projects, including Thrive Community Kitchen for another year, plus money to construct a basketball half court at Wonderkids. It is a priority for TDP to continue our fundraising efforts in 2026-27, including adding corporate partners and long-term partners.

At a board level, the addition of Ms Kelly Durrant as an advisor to the board, brings fresh eyes, expertise and even more rigour to our governance. Her experience and passion for women's health bolster our efforts to improve the dignity of women in our community.

I am proud of the achievements of TDP in the past 12 months and grateful to our volunteer board who drive our efforts forward. I eagerly look forward to what the year ahead holds.

Lincoln Harris
TDP Secretary

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Each year provides new challenges and each year yields new rewards.

A key milestone during this year's reporting period was Funds for the Future – TDP's first public fundraiser. As with each step in our journey, the work behind the scenes and the learning curve as part of this process was significant. Being able to raise funds and provide tax deductions allows us greater scope in our fundraising and a potential springboard to expand the work of TDP in the years ahead.

Although we did not meet our ambitious target, we have made significant steps in securing new sources of funds and money needed to guarantee flagship programs in the years ahead. We believe that current global uncertainties, international conflicts and cost of living pressures damped the capacity of some organisations and individuals to give at this time, a sentiment echoed by other not-for-profits and charitable organisations we connect with. We are truly grateful for the generosity of those that supported our campaign this year. Our fundraising efforts will continue.

As part of that fundraising campaign, it was my privilege to connect with each individual donor. From those conversations two clear themes emerged: belief and people. What I heard time and time again from donors is our belief in our work is what motivates them to give. They believe in us. Secondly, our connection to real people, with families, stories and dreams, and the communities we work for and with, inspires donors to give. They want to support real people.

Looking forward, I hope to spend more time on site visits and in communities in India this year and to roll out new projects in women's health currently being developed by TDP. Additional teacher training is also among the top priorities for 2026/27.

TDP is built on volunteers working for people and communities and our relationships and service to those people is what drives us. At TDP people matter, and establishing dignity for our communities pushes us forward, even when the work is tough.

We do the work today for a better future for all.

Madelene Pearson
TDP Chair


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I treasure the weekly mentoring sessions I shared with teachers from Wonderkids school throughout the year. The hour of conversation each week online - talking about school, digital learning, the price of vegetables in the market, women's health, how much the children eat at breakfast, upcoming weddings and so on - are precious and deserve to be highlighted. Not only do I look forward to these small conversations and the relationships I share with the teachers, but they demonstrate real outcomes of our work: teachers now capable of using technology to meet online; teachers who can now converse in English for an hour each week and teachers who now have a new confidence to talk, share stories and ask questions.

Madelene Pearson, TDP Chair

TDP HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Overseas operations:

In the reporting period July 2025-June 2026:

- TDP purchased 277 packs of reusable sanitary pads and 20 menstrual cups
- The Thrive Community Kitchen served 34,873 meals to undernourished children
- Over 98% of students gained weight in the 8 months July-February
- Sanitation upgrades were completed at Wonderkids including dedicated a handwashing station and a purpose-built dishwashing station
- Additional building space was leased to expand Wonderkids school campus

PAD PROGRAM REPORT: Women's health initiative

- Pad program expands through partnership with NGO Reality Gives
- Distributed reusable sanitary pads at new locations in Delhi and Naujheel
- Delivered women's menstrual health workshops to senior students at Wonderkids
- Purchased female sanitary products worth 534,279 INR rupees ($8,683 AUD approx.)







TDP's women's health initiative continues to grow and reach more women and female adolescents. During the reporting period we added to locations where reusable sanitary pads are distributed, trained more women to become peer educators and ran an intensive women's health workshop in Khajuraho. Our efforts to reduce period poverty and enhance knowledge of women's menstrual health and hygiene in our communities remains a key priority.

In September we ran a special education program for adolescent girls at Wonderkids School in Khajuraho. The week-long intensive included multi-day workshops facilitated by EcoFemme especially designed for young women in schools. During the sessions, our female students learnt about their bodies, good hygiene and a range of menstrual products. They also spent two days on a craft project, weaving the menstrual calendar in giant weavings which now hang in our community centre. As part of the workshop, TDP visited Banki village again and hosted a pad distribution session at Wonderkids school for mothers of new enrolments. Additionally, two women from Reality Gives (RG) in Delhi joined us for the week to be trained as facilitators to run pad distribution meetings at RG centres in Delhi and Naujheel.







Supported by a grant from Living Ripples and The Phillips Foundation, we purchased 250 packs of reusable cloth sanitary pads this year. An additional 27 packs and 20 menstrual cups were purchased with funding raised by an Australian teenager as part of a school project focused on a topic of interest. Of those, 100 packets were delivered to Reality Gives and the balance to Khajuraho. As we seek to expand our efforts to provide women with reusable cloth pads, Ms Marchang Ranshingla from Reality Gives, became a TDP pad program facilitator.

Looking ahead, we plan to promote the use of menstrual cups and increase our focus on distributing menstrual products through our partnership with Reality Gives.

I have been using the pads since I got them and it's really good because now I don't have to expend money every month for pads.

Nandini, age 13

The quality of the pad is better than the sanitary pads found in the shop, so I am very happy using the product.

Kajal, age 22

Easy and comfortable to use

Neetu, age 35

MEALS PROGRAM REPORT: Thrive Community Kitchen

- Meals provided consistently across the academic year, totalling 207 days across approximately 43 weeks at Thrive Community Kitchen
- A total of 34,873 meals were served during the reporting period
- Weight gains recorded in over 98 percent of the student cohort for whom data could be collected







TDP's Thrive Community Kitchen and meals program continues to be an integral part of our work in Khajuraho. Many of the children and families who make up our Wonderkids community are living below the poverty line and regular food is a tangible way we can help the children in these families grow physically and academically. We prioritise using fresh, local ingredients to produce nutritious meals that adhere to local dietary and social customs. Our meals are designed to maximise calories and protein and to ensure full stomachs at the beginning of each school day. Thrive Community Kitchen serves a rotating hot breakfast 6 days per week and a thrice weekly morning snack to all students and staff at Wonderkids School.

During this reporting period we invested 906,150 Indian rupees ($13,219 AUD) in meals to provide a total of 34,873 meals over 207 days. As there are approximately 258 school days in the Indian school year this represents 80% of school days across the academic year. We have been conducting monthly weight checks since October 2024 as we seek to reduce the impact of malnutrition in our community.







Of 183 students in the cohort, we were able to collect data for 161 students (data is not available for 22 students due to absences during data collection). Student absenteeism continues to cause some gaps and we are working to ensure our data collection is as accurate and complete as possible. Of these 161 students, 158 gained weight in the 8 months period from July 2025 to February 2026 which is over 98% of the cohort. This highlights the impact of the meals program, with ongoing consistent gains in the children, most of whom were below average weight-for height at the start of our meals program. Three students showed a decline in weight and we are working hard to address this. We have been collecting student weight data since October 2024 and will continue to do so as part of the monitoring of the meals program.

The high quality of food provided at our institution is a rarity among schools. We utilize only high-quality ingredients in our preparations. The majority of our students come from underprivileged backgrounds and do not have access to food of such high quality in their homes. Since the inception of this meal program, we have observed significant improvements in their intellectual and physical development. We sincerely hope to sustain this
initiative moving forward.

Ganesh Tiwari,
Principal, Wonderkids School



EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORT: Wonderkids School, Khajuraho

Wonderkids School in Khajuraho, India is the site of TDP's education project; home to our Thrive Community Kitchen and associated meals program and the hub for our sanitary pad distribution project in the region. Significant upgrades to infrastructure occurred at the school this reporting period, creating better learning environments and greatly improving sanitation and hygiene standards.

Ongoing facility improvements at Wonderkids

TDP successfully received a grant of $2,470 from Reece Group Foundation which funded much needed and important sanitation upgrades at the school including the installation of a dedicated handwashing station, a purpose built dishwashing station, the purchase and installation of new rainwater tanks and construction of proper drainage to remove wastewater from the school site. The beneficiaries of the sanitation works are the school community of 195 people, including a student cohort of approximately 180 plus teachers and ancillary staff of 15. The project was designed to provide critical infrastructure needed to promote and ensure a healthy and hygienic school environment. The project has now been completed.

Before the installation of the sanitisation system—whenever children washed their hands or cleaned their lunchboxes—water would spill everywhere, leading to a fly infestation. This filth used to spread throughout the premises. Now, thanks to this system, the entire school remains clean. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to those who provided us with this financial assistance.

Ganesh Tiwari,
Principal, Wonderkids School



The school site also leased additional space to meet continued demand for classrooms and teaching space. The school now has designated areas for the primary school, high school and Class 10 students and a dedicated staff room. The lower primary classes with bigger student cohorts now have two rooms each: a space for formal desk learning and a second room for play activities and reading.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING AT WONDERKIDS

TDP welcomed a group of volunteers at Wonderkids School in September 2026, for a week of intensive teaching and learning. As part of the Heads, Hearts and Hands Tour, a group of families from Australia (6 parents, each accompanied by a teenage child) joined TDP with the goal of bringing a range of new experiences and skills to Wonderkids through a series of special workshops created for the local students. TDP also designed to the tour to support Australian teenagers to gain an understanding of the differences, challenges and culture of living and studying in regional India; to raise funds for the school and hopefully create bonds between a group of
visiting Australians and the staff and students at Wonderkids. In addition to the Australian tour members, the trip included a local fieldworker in women's menstrual health and hygiene plus two staff members from Reality Gives who came to learn more about our community pad sessions.

Over the week we witnessed a range of unique project-based classes including animation, song writing, see saw building, science lessons, Lego building, mathematics classes, weaving, embroidery, paper plane making and sports lessons. We saw rich, deep learning taking place, English language in practice, new friendships formed, teenagers from Australia pouring their hearts and energy into creating experiences for other students while the local children absorbed and participated in every opportunity.









The Heads, Hearts and Hands Tour 2025 raised $12,247.96 for TDP. It was a rich and rewarding tour for all involved and thoroughly enjoyable. The memories of the experience will stay with those in Khajuraho and the visiting Australians for a lifetime, we are sure.

Administration operations in Australia:

- Funds for the Future – TDP's first public fundraiser
- TDP adds Ms Kelly Durrant as board advisor to strengthen focus on women's health

Fundraising

Funds for the future began during the period with a target goal of raising $248,900: the amount needed to sustain Wonderkids' operating costs and essential programs for three years. It was TDP's first public fundraiser since achieving ACNC charity status and would shift our focus from month-to-month survival toward long-term stability. Having delivered projects for a number of years on the ground in India, TDP's fundraising goal is underpinned by four years of accurate spending data.

TDP raised enough during the fundraising campaign to guarantee the meals program for at least 12 months, to fund a year of operating costs at Wonderkids, as well as construct a new basketball court at the school. We are grateful to the donors who have already made contributions. We recognise that fundraising is an ongoing area to focus on and remain committed to increasing our donor list and forming strategic partnerships to support our work ahead.

Notes from the board

TDP's board held six formal board meetings during this reporting period. As well as ongoing operations, key areas of discussion this year focused on fundraising efforts. Additionally, the board welcomed Ms Kelly Durrant in an advisory capacity during the period, bolstering our focus and expertise on women's health. The board currently strives to meet on the second Monday of every month.



A year ago I visited Khajuraho with TDP for the first time. I have spent my career focused on public health in low and middle income countries and I was amazed by how much TDP is able to achieve with so little. A particular highlight for me was travelling to a local village to provide menstrual health education and products. I'm incredibly honoured to have been asked to join the Board and look forward to helping shape TDP's next steps.

Kelly Durrant, TDP Advisor

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We started the financial year with an opening balance of $42,591 and our closing balance at 30th June 2026 was $7,208.

Opening cash balance 1 July 2025	$42,591.09
Income	$27,111.16
Expenditure	-$62,494.05
Combined cash balance 30 June 2026	$7,208.20

INCOME	AUD
Corporate & philanthropic donations	$10,614.28
Donations from individuals	$16,496.88
Total	**$27,111.16**

EXPENDITURE	AUD
Education	$28,470.00
Nutrition	$24,000.00
Menstrual health	$10,024.05
Total	**$62,494.05**



A clear highlight for me this year was the milestone of four years of the meals program at the school. There is a significant amount of care and attention to nutritional detail put into the meal planning, particularly given the many constraints involved in running an at-scale program such as this. The provision of meals to students shouldn't be underestimated, both in terms of enhancing students' physical wellbeing and the flow-on effects for morale and capacity for learning, not to mention the very real relief it provides to many families. Seeing the evolution of the program, its planning, facilities and investment in staff and then seeing it operate in person was a tangible, joyous highlight.

Rhan Harris, TDP Board



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

In the year ahead, TDP will look to add to its team in India as part of our efforts to expand projects, raise funds and monitor and evaluate our work on the ground. We hope to visit our sites more often for evaluation and review and to share our work with more people, either through visits and tours to our projects or through increased efforts from our side to share our work. As a board, forming new strategic partnerships and fundraising will remain a key area of focus.

TDP has much to be proud of this year and many highlights. But our resolve to do more and reach more people is stronger than ever.

We continue to strive for dignity for all.










WONDERKIDS ENGLISH SCHOOL



















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