

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the length of the assignment?

Ideally, three months minimum up to 12 months maximum.

Can I take a partner/family?

Yes, you can take a partner and up to one child.

If your partner is trained in health, ADI will pay for your partner's airfares. Depending on their qualifications and skills there may be an appropriate role for them either in the Catholic health network or at the local hospital in Kiunga.

If your partner is not trained in health, ADI will not pay for your partner's airfares, but will provide full board and accommodation for the period of the assignment. Your partner may wish to assist in non-medical areas.

What type of accommodation is available?

Accommodation is available for a couple with one child by way of a free-standing, one-bedroom house with a spare bed in the living area.

The house is located on the grounds of the Montfort Catholic Mission in Kiunga. The Mission has a health office, school, centre for children with disabilities and centre for workshops and conferences.

You can view photos of the volunteer accommodation on our website www.adi.org.au (click on photo galleries).

ADI is planning to build a four-bedroom volunteer house at the Mission. This will be available in 2010.

What remuneration will I receive?

You will receive AUD \$1,000 per month, payable either to a bank account in Australia or an account in PNG.

What other benefits are there?

ADI provides return airfares, full board and accommodation.

How long does it take between applying to volunteer for ADI and departing for PNG?

If your application is successful, deployment typically takes place over the next 6-8 months.

What about meals?

Food is provided by the Mission and you can choose to cook in your own house or eat in the dining room with the Bishop, Catholic priests, nuns and other lay people.

Occasionally you may wish to supplement your meals with local produce from the markets which would be at your own expense.

How safe is it?

Our program is based in Kiunga, which is a port town and regional center for commerce in the North Fly District. There has been no history of uprisings or violence in the area. The local people are very helpful, friendly and engaging.

Similarly, Australian Doctors International is well respected in the community and it pays to wear garments that display our name so people know who you are.

Accommodation is within the Montfort Catholic Mission complex which houses about 30 people and is regularly patrolled. However, care must be taken to look after your personal belongings.

A safe is provided for your essential personal documents and valuables, and you will need to lock the house when you are not there.

On patrol, you will always be accompanied by our local boatman/driver Jean who is very knowledgeable, reliable and experienced. Generally we find doctors are highly regarded and welcomed by villagers.

What recreational activities are available in the area?

The mining company, Ok Tedi, have a recreation club nearby. It has a swimming pool, basic six-hole golf course and gym.

There is a large library at the mission and cable television.

The area is famous for birdlife including birds of paradise and cassowaries! A local environmentalist caters for interested viewers.

What goods are available in the local shops?

In Kiunga, the shops stock a varying range of goods depending on when the last shipping container arrived. There is a Minimart, a small grocery store, a bulk store, two family stores which sell general grocery items and frozen meats, and a hardware store. There is also a liquor store only open on weekdays.

There is also a major shopping centre at Tabubil, 137 kilometres away or three to four hours by road. There is generally someone going there on a weekly basis.

You can view photos of volunteer accommodation and daily life in Kiunga on our website www.adi.org.au (click on photo galleries)