



# Friendship School Project Membership Options 2008

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All schools initially join the FSP membership as School Members. It may take several terms to discover where FSP fits into each school community and their curriculum.

All schools will want to respond with differing levels of commitment and support to the program, to schools in Timor-Leste and the East Timorese community in general.

If a school would like to extend its membership from School Member to School Partner, continuing with awareness-raising activities within its own school, but incorporating the extra dimension of being linked with a school in Timor-Leste, it must consider how it will maintain a commitment of three years as a School Partner, and document this.

## **Becoming a School Partner**

This process takes time and resources. It requires a school-wide commitment to consider FSP as part of the whole school's program. Schools are therefore encouraged to develop an awareness by their own students and staff regarding the situation and conditions faced by schools and their wider communities in Timor-Leste. FSP supports education and learning, as a first priority, through the School Partner relationship.

The commitment that FSP School Partners make is for a minimum of three years. It is a decision that should not be taken lightly. The in-school program developed by each school will require an ongoing effort from staff to maintain student interest. Schools will need to provide a brief summary of the structures in place that will assist with the planning and implementation of an awareness program and the inclusion of Timor-Leste into their school curriculum (see FSP School Partner Process for Australian Schools)

Once the school and the FSP Coordinator in Australia have agreed that a school is ready and aware of the commitment required to become a School Partner, the FSP Team in Dili undertakes procedures in Timor-Leste.

## **Establish a new School Partner link between Australia and Timor-Leste**

The process of finding a School Partner in Timor-Leste for your school may take several months as the FSP team in Dili undertakes the following steps to establish a new Friendship School relationship:

- FSP Team travels to the relevant District to meet with the Superintendent of Education, explaining the work of FSP and to ask for a nominated school.
- Upon recommendation of a suitable school, meets with the School Principal to see if they are willing to have their school participate in FSP.
- Meet the teachers and students at the school to explain the aims and objectives of FSP. At this visit an FSP information pack will be shared, (including an Australian Information



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- Kit in Tetun, Australian flag, Australian map, a Tetun/Melayu Dictionary and a Tetun Lonely Planet Phrase Book).
- An introduction to school life in Australia alongside general facts about the country's people and geography will be discussed, drawing comparisons with life in Timor-Leste.
  - The school usually receives a small quantity of school supplies on this visit (eg a manual typewriter and 2 boxes of school supplies).

When FSP in Australia is notified that all is ready in Timor-Leste, confirmation is given to the Australian school. The Australian School Partner is then asked to initially prepare and send cards in Tetun and English by way of introduction from their students, introducing their school to their School Partner in Timor-Leste.