



## THE UNITED NATIONS 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4 IS QUALITY EDUCATION

By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states.

[www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education)

The UN highlights the fact that poorly trained teachers or those teachers with limited or no training at all, significantly impacts the learning outcomes of children. Add to this, economic and social deficiencies coexisting in a young developing nation such as Timor-Leste, and the result is a fine recipe for a cycle of inequality that is difficult for one to break free from.

Teaching pedagogy is not something that can be learnt on the job in an environment that does not provide the opportunity for training and development. Within the Maliana Diocese there are 72 schools that have many teachers who have not had the opportunity to receive any formal teacher training. It is for this reason we have been working with Father Natalino at his request, to design a Teacher Professional Learning Centre to be built in Maliana.

It has been a long journey thus far. For the past ten months we have been working with a local architecture and construction company in Dili, Community Housing Limited (CHL). They are an Australian-based not-for-profit, with ethical social enterprise principles not too dissimilar to our Mercy values. They support the training and employment of local people within the community of each project and have an inhouse design, carpentry and research laboratory through social enterprise.

In August, Nicole Christensen, College Principal, and I travelled to Dili for the presentation of the construction drawings at the office of CHL. The construction drawings are in line with Australian drawing standards and provide a range of details that include: soil testing results, floorplans, sections, hydraulic set outs and structural engineering specifications. At present, CHL are making minor adjustments to their drawings prior to an assessment by an Australian engineer and quantity surveyor, both of whom have extensive construction experience in Timor-Leste, before going through a rigorous tender process in early November. Our aim is to commence construction in the new year, which coincides with the end of the wet season.

We express our sincere gratitude to the entire College community for their ongoing support and generosity of our fundraising initiatives for this socially just enterprise.

If you would like further information on this transformative project please contact me on 9409 6200 or visit the College website [www.monte.nsw.edu.au](http://www.monte.nsw.edu.au)

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