



A message from Ross Pinney

To: Australian Red Cross members and volunteers
From: President Ross Pinney
Send: Tuesday 26 July 2022
Subject: **Adapting for impact in a changing world**

Hello <NAME>

The world around us is changing: the impact of climate change, increasing international conflict resulting in forced migration, and shifts in the global economy to name just a few of the drivers that may lead to further inequality and vulnerability.

As these factors intersect, the need for Australian Red Cross is even stronger.

We are more relevant than ever before.

So how will we respond?

We must adapt to what is an increasingly complex set of internal and external challenges to put us in the best position to respond to this growing need for our programs and services in a strong and sustainable way — for the long term.

We cannot be everything to everyone, as much as we may want to be.

We will transform what we do as an organisation — and how we do it — using our organisational strategy to guide our decisions.

Work is already underway to sharpen our focus, improve our effectiveness and reduce spending that we cannot afford. This means addressing our internal operations and leveraging our core capabilities of:

- Emergency Services (disaster response, recovery and resilience) in Australia and overseas;
- Migration Support;
- International Humanitarian Law;

- Community Programs; and
- with a First Nations perspective, central to all that we do.

Transforming what we do, regrettably, will mean a reduction in roles and programs. But it will mean a stronger Red Cross from which we can grow our impact.

Without members and volunteers we could not fulfill our purpose.

As a priority, our organisational transformation will focus on improving our support for members and volunteers, including working towards having better onboarding processes for volunteers and growing our base.

I'm encouraged by the creative initiatives that are already underway to achieve member and volunteer growth (a key goal of our organisational strategy), and I look forward to updating you on these.

As always, I acknowledge and thank you for your ongoing commitment to Red Cross, including the valuable contributions within your local communities.

I hope you enjoy the stories below, which are terrific examples of exactly this.

Kind regards,

Ross Pinney
President, Australian Red Cross

NATIONAL UPDATES



The power and spirit of First Nations Knowledge

First Nations leaders recently came together to share their perspectives and build an understanding of the obstacles and opportunities to improve diversity and inclusion at Red Cross, in the true spirit of reconciliation.

Through the traditional concept of 'yarning', Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Red Cross people, along with the Healing Foundation, held knowledge circles across Australia. Each circle recorded this shared knowledge, capturing the outcomes on a canvas in art form, as a gift from First Nations staff to Red Cross.



Australian support for Ukrainians in Poland

Australian Red Cross Senior Media Adviser Susan Cullinan (pictured far left) recently returned from Poland where she was supporting the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent's Ukraine response. Her mission as an emergency communications delegate was to spread the word on the enormous needs of refugees affected by the Ukraine conflict, and the massive operation under way by the Red Cross movement to assist.

[Read her reflections here](#) including why kindness is crucial — and cash is the best form of aid.



Winding down COVID-19 vaccination requirements

The health and safety of all Red Cross people, our clients and the communities we serve, is our priority. Red Cross follows the official national, state and local health guidelines.

Aligned to the latest changes in vaccine requirements across Australia, as of Monday 18 July 2022, Red Cross people are no longer required to receive a third (booster) shot by 31 July. However, all Red Cross people covered by a public health order must adhere to their requirements.

This update is detailed on [our website](#). If you need further information please contact the National Verification team on covid_vaccination@redcross.org.au or your [local Hub](#).

STATE UPDATES



NSW: Floods

This month areas of Sydney, Central Coast, Hunter, South Coast and Illawarra have been affected by flooding; some communities for the fourth time in 18 months. Red Cross Emergency Services teams have been assisting at evacuation centres. Volunteer Alana Spicer met Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet when they visited the Richmond Club evacuation centre (pictured above).

Red Cross continues to help, and our Trauma Teddies are no exception: have a listen to this [ABC Radio report](#) when you can — it is heart warming.

And please also look out for our report on the NSW & Qld Flood Appeal, which will be published soon, highlighting the positive impact of our work, and how every donation has contributed to this.



SA: World of Flavours

Participants in the Red Cross *Learning English Through Food* program brought a world of flavour to the Adelaide Central Market with a cooking and dance demonstration during Refugee Week. Red Cross volunteers partnered with the Muslim Women's Association, Sun of Africa Dance Group and the Adelaide Central Market to host this event and celebrate the positive contributions refugees make to Australian society.



ACT: Celebrating decades of delivery

42 years... Volunteers Valerie and Denis Harding have given this many years of service to our ACT Meals on Wheels Program. Retiring from their roles as Red Cross volunteers this month, they expressed how important the service is and how grateful clients are — not only for the delivered meal — but also the social interaction.

From all at Red Cross: thank you Valerie and Denis.

BOARD MOVEMENTS

There have been some movements within our Board that I'd like to update you on.

Aisling Blackmore, Chair of the Western Australian Divisional Advisory Board (DAB)

Aisling Blackmore has stepped back from her governance roles to pursue personal commitments outside of Red Cross.

Aisling has been an asset to the Board and Finance Committee, particularly around her support for increasing our organisation's focus on inclusion and accessibility, bringing not-for-profit and community sector intelligence to financial forecasting, and driving changes to process and documentation for our state level governance structures in WA.

As a member and volunteer within Australian Red Cross since January 2010, I'm pleased to say that Aisling remains committed to Australian Red Cross and will continue in this capacity following her resignation from the Board which came into effect Thursday 21 July.

The Western Australian DAB will now elect DAB member(s) to replace Aisling as Chair of the Western Australian DAB and as representative of the Western Australian DAB on the Board.

Cris Topfner-Rigby, Additional Board Member

After four years, Additional Board Member Cris Topfner-Rigby has resigned from her Board role for family reasons, although she remains a Red Cross member.

Cris' lived experience as a former refugee aided by Red Cross — combined with her expertise across innovation, digital agility and transformation — provided a strong base for her role as a Red Cross Board member. She also played a key role in leading the Tech and Cyber Sub-Committee as its Chair and was an active contributor as a member of the Audit and Risk Committee, in the oversight of risk management across the organisation but particularly technology and cyber security risks.

We thank Cris for her contribution and are glad to have her support on as a member moving forward.

Please join me in thanking both Aisling and Cris for their commitment to Red Cross, their extensive work in their Board roles (on a voluntary basis) and in wishing them well for the future.

Submit a story for next month's edition

If you have a story to share with members and volunteers nationally next month please submit it to InternalComms@redcross.org.au