



Marist Asia Foundation

# 2016 Annual Report

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*Marist Asia Foundation - Supporting Burmese Migrants*

## **Compassion in Action**

Thanks to all our friends and supporters for your support in 2016..

You've supported some of the most abandoned Burmese Migrants on the Thailand Burma Border.

With Education, Health and Migrant Worker Programmes we are building a brighter future together.

# SHARING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016



Ranong has the highest density of Burmese Migrants and one of the highest child labour rates in Thailand. Education for leadership, Health Care for HIV Aids Patients and skills for Migrant Workers creates brighter futures.



## Education Programmes

Growing Brighter Futures

Preschool Programme - 75 children started education

Secondary Programme - 85 Burmese Migrant students are on track for 4 years Secondary School for a much brighter future

University Online Diploma Programme - 12 Young Leaders are about to graduate from Australian Catholic University

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## Health Programmes

Caring for the most abandoned

HIV AIDS Health Programme - providing support, counselling, advocacy and monthly self help for 75 HIV Patients and their families

HIV AIDS Education Programme - providing education to prevent HIV and overcome discrimination with youth and migrant community

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## Migrant Worker Programmes

Providing choices beyond the fish factories

Better futures for Burmese Migrants Programme

Intermediate English Programme 25

Academic English Programme 18

Thai Language Programme 50

Computer Programme 50

Saturday School for disadvantaged Children 25

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# Education Programmes



## my father's salary is not enough to support my younger brother and sister

My father works as a mason and mother doesn't work because the factory which she worked before closed two years ago.

One of my younger sisters doesn't go to school and cannot go to work because she is ill. Also another of my younger sister and brother cannot go to school because my father's salary is not enough to support them. I am lucky because my school supports me for my education so that I can go to school.

My father always asks me to leave school so that I can work because of our family financial problems. He said I am the oldest daughter so I need to work for my family and younger siblings. I am very sad and stressful but I cannot do anything. My mother wants me to finish school and she encourages me when I am sad. My mother asks my father to allow me to go to school. Therefore, I can attend school.

## Preschool Programme



75 children attended preschool programme  
100% of children completing Kindergarten class began primary school  
Staff visited 25 of the most in need families to develop relationship and understand their situation  
23 children / families receive sponsorship to help with tuition and transport costs to come to school.  
100% satisfaction report of preschool parents with transport and safety (transport is one of the biggest challenges to overcome to help children get to school)  
High parent attendance 61% and 91% for meetings / activities  
New electronic classroom resources introduced to help children with english and maths learning

## Secondary Education Programme



85 Burmese Migrant Teenagers in 4 year Education Programme  
Surveyed 41 families and 6 focus groups in the Burmese Migrant Community to understand education needs of the community for strategic planning  
79 parents attended Mothers Day Celebration  
Electronic Classroom 25 computers and introduction of electronic reading resources  
10 graduates of BMSP programme are teachers in Local Burmese Migrant Learning Centres  
Created 'Ranong Migrant Education Network' with 4 other Learning Centres  
Hosted National and Local Government leaders for consultation about Burmese Migrants and Education  
21 children / families received sponsorship to help with tuition and transport costs to come to school.

## University Online Diploma Programme

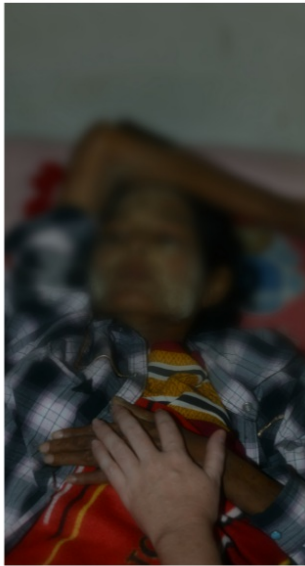


Increased numbers of students studying ACU online Diploma from 9 to 12 students  
7 of 8 courses completed successfully with graduation planned for May 2017.  
Signed 5 year partnership agreement with Australian Catholic University to provide University Online Diploma for Burmese Migrants

Yr 3 student

Sometimes I think my life is not enjoyable. When I think again there are many young people who do not have opportunities to attend school. My father wanted myself and my sister to leave school and work but my mother supports us to study. I feel sad when I see them tired everyday.

# Health Programmes



## I felt so alone and unaccepted by my children

I am 62 years old, but I was 57 years old when I came to know I was HIV positive. My CD4 count was very low, only 55, and I was not in good health with many infections, diarrhoea and high fever. Marist Asia Health team found me and supported me with half my medication treatment. I went to hospital many times. I felt alone and unaccepted by my own children. The health team helped me to get well again and go back to work. I donate my time and food and offer to help them now. I welcome them to my house each year to say thank you. I refer others with HIV to them and I help care for dying patients in my neighbourhood. I share with my neighbours that I cannot give HIV to them. After a long struggle I am now well enough and my daughters accept me and visit me. I am a faithful Buddhist and I always pray for the Health Team. Because of them I know I can face whatever challenges happen in my life. Thank You.

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## HIV AIDS Health Programme

1,392 Home Visits  
2,154 translation appointments in hospital to help Doctors and Nurses understand Burmese patients  
Average of 7 patients each month receive rental or financial assistance  
343 nutrition food packs delivered  
74% of patients are now working and supporting their families  
4 patients were helped to die with dignity and respect  
71 patients helped to get Health Cards to receive ARV treatment  
12 new patients were referred to Marist Asia Foundation from our HIV patients



## Monthly Self Help Meeting

10 'monthly' workshops helped patients gather together for education and support. Average monthly attendance 41  
100% of patients said self help meetings helped them with spiritual and emotional support  
monthly meetings also include Children's workshops using art and music and discussion



## Health Education Programme

8 Health Topics include Attitudes, Stigma & Discrimination, What is HIV AIDS, Transmission & Prevention HIV Testing, Relationships Love and Romance in Adolescence.  
15 students (15-17yrs) covered the Health Course and passed with average mark of 79  
Positive results are friends and parents of students participating in support and help of HIV Patients.

quotes  
from  
HIV  
Patients

"I always feel very happy, and feel fresh every time you visit me"  
"Our life is like a plant planted in the very dry soil. The Health Team are like the one who give water... then there is a new life, new fruit."  
"We are walking in dark of our life... Like the moon, you give us light in the night."

# Migrant Support Programmes



## I felt so afraid and embarrassed to try and talk with my boss

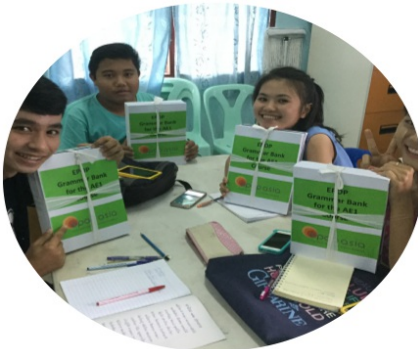
I am a migrant worker in one of the big fish factories in Ranong. Sometimes I want to learn more for my future but I cannot talk with my Thai Boss. When I try and ask anything from my Thai Boss I feel embarrassed because I cannot respond. It is very difficult for Burmese Migrants living in Thailand not knowing how to communicate. Now I am happy I have found a Thai and Computer course at Marist Asia Foundation called Better Future for Burmese (BFFB) programme. I am getting better in Thai language and it helps me in my work to write down in Thai and communicate with Thai people. I am now more confident to achieve my dreams. We are lucky to have these classes as these programmes can help Burmese migrant workers get better work conditions, achieve their dreams and support their communities.

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## Better Futures For Burmese Migrants

University Online Diploma Programme students conducted needs assessment surveys in their community and listened to needs of Young Burmese Migrant Workers. They now volunteer to provide Thai Language Class for 50 migrant workers 5 month programme  
Basic Computer skills for 50 migrant workers 5 month programme



## Intermediate & Academic English Programme

English Language learning provides migrant workers with more job opportunities as the ASEAN community increasingly uses English as the language of communication between ASEAN countries. 28 migrant workers completed 6 month Intermediate English Programme

15 students completing the 6 month Academic English Programme

Marist Asia Foundation entered partnership agreement with Thabyay Foundation and Exam Preparation Outreach Programme (EPOP) for online learning platform for English Learning.



## Saturday School for Children without a School.

University Online Diploma Students researched in the local area and found many children in nearby charcoal and fish factories who did not attend school.

Average weekly attendance at Saturday school of 25 children

Basic Burmese Language Learning and Maths along with helping students to sit at a desk, listen to the teacher, cooperate with other students and supportive conversations with parents help children start at a Burmese Learning Centre.

English programme student

"Being Burmese Migrant in Thailand is like being a bird who has had its wings broken. Learning English means we are able to fly again."



Thanks to all our Friends and Supporters 2016

Misean Cara (Ireland), Marist Mission Centre (Australia), Lenity Australia (Australia), International Bazaar (Ireland), Australian Marist Solidarity (Australia), Society of Mary - District of Asia (Philippines), Society of Mary - General House (Rome), Caritas Verona (Italy), Australian Catholic University (ACU - Australia), Society of Mary - Ireland, Larsen Family Trust (Australia), Singapore Friends, Friends and Supporters - Monthly Donors, NZ Donors - Education Vehicle, St Joseph's School Hawera (NZ), Sacred Heart College Hamilton (NZ), Marist Catholic Girls College Auckland (NZ), Cullinane College Wanganui (NZ), Marist Messenger & Marist Laity Groups (NZ), and many individuals and parishes who have shown great love and support in 2016.

Thank You.



COMPASSION  
IN  
ACTION

LETS KEEP CONNECTED



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