

Speech Therapist

Nepal

This assignment has been negotiated in good faith with the Partner Organisation, and the information contained was correct at the time of acceptance of the request. However, while we take responsibility for matters under our direct control, all assignments and arrangements are subject to change. This assignment may be amended or withdrawn to reflect changes in circumstances.

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS			
Assignment title	Speech Therapist		
Partner Organisation	National Autism Care Center Society Nepal (NACCSN) ,		
Location	Dhangadhi,		
Website of Partner Organisation	www.nepalautism.org,		
Total Duration of assignment	12 months	Start date	6/04/2026
Type of assignment	In-person	Australian Organisation	No
		<i>Volunteer Mode</i>	<i>Duration</i>
Assignment Phases <i>(For Hybrid Assignments Only)</i>	Phase 1	in-country,	12 months
			<i>Time Commitment</i>
			Full-time (In-Country)

PARTNER ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

The National Autism Care Center Society Nepal (NACCSN), registered with the Kailali District Administration Office in 2022 in Sudurpaschim (far west) Province, is committed to supporting children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). It actively works to address their educational and developmental needs.

NACCSN provides tailored educational interventions to support the academic and social development of children with ASD, ensuring equal access to education and opportunities to reach their potential.

In Sudurpaschim Province, the lack of schools that focus on autism, and lack of awareness about autism among parents, educators, and key stakeholders poses significant challenges. To address these issues, NACCSN advocates for the educational rights of children through awareness campaigns, teacher training, capacity-building initiatives, and specialised resources, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for children with ASD and their families.

Since 2022, NACCS has also been running the 'Himalaya Special School for Autism and Rehabilitation Centre' with financial support from the provincial government and Dhangadhi Sub-metropolitan City. The school currently provides teaching and learning activities for 22 children with autism.

Australian Volunteers Program

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Assignment overview

This volunteer assignment is crucial to the organisation as it directly addresses the significant gap in professional expertise required to support children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), particularly in speech therapy. Speech therapy is essential for improving communication skills, enhancing social interactions, and achieving developmental milestones in many children with ASD. Currently, the region faces a severe shortage of trained professionals in this field. Local practitioners lack the specialised knowledge and practical experience needed to provide effective, tailored speech therapy for children with autism. As a result, families and children in need of these services are left without adequate support.

By engaging a qualified and experienced Australian volunteer, NACCSN aims to bridge this critical gap. The volunteer will provide direct speech therapy services to children and also build local capacity through training and mentoring programs for staff, teachers, caregivers, parents, and aspiring professionals. This approach ensures a sustainable impact, contributing to long-term improvements in the quality of care and support for children with ASD both in the school and across the community.

Assignment objectives

To provide high-quality speech therapy services tailored to the unique communication and developmental needs of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

To train and mentor teachers, caregivers, and aspiring professionals, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively support children with ASD.

To raise awareness among parents, teachers, and stakeholders about the importance of speech therapy and autism-related interventions, fostering a sustainable support system within the community.

To include all people directly affected by the volunteer assignment in the Partner Organisation and community, using strategies that promote: gender equality; inclusion of youth; inclusion of people with a disability; child protection and safeguarding; inclusion of marginalised groups.

Duties and responsibilities of the volunteer

Deliver individualised speech and communication therapy sessions for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to enhance their language development, social interaction, and communication skills.

Create tailored therapeutic plans based on each child's unique needs and monitor their progress regularly to ensure the effectiveness of interventions.

Organise workshops and hands-on training sessions for teachers, parents, caregivers and staff to enhance their capacity in supporting children with ASD effectively.

Lead awareness campaigns to educate parents, teachers, and local stakeholders about ASD, its challenges, and the importance of specialised interventions such as speech therapy.

Mentor local professionals and aspiring therapists, transferring knowledge and skills to establish a sustainable framework for providing continued support to children with ASD both in the school and in the community.

Australian Volunteers Program

Selection criteria
A bachelor's degree in speech therapy, communication disorders, or a related field. Specialised training in ASD is highly desirable.
A minimum of three years' experience in speech therapy for children with ASD, including creating and implementing individualised intervention plans.
Strong communication, empathy, and interpersonal skills, with a passion for empowering children with ASD and fostering inclusive education.
Ability to work in a multicultural environment, respecting local practices and adapting strategies to meet community needs.
Proven ability to train teachers, parents, caregivers and staff to support children with ASD.

Desirable skills, language and experience
Skilled in using alternative communication tools, visual aids, and assistive technologies for children with ASD.
Experience in underserved communities, offering therapeutic or educational support to children with developmental disabilities. Willingness to work in an under-resourced context.
Knowledge of local languages or willingness to learn regional dialects for effective communication.

Line Manager	Executive Director
Staff Supervision	No
Working relationships	<i>The volunteer will work with teachers and NACCSN staff to support the organisation's goals, and will also guide and train parents, caregivers, and staff, involving them in therapy for children with autism.,</i>
Hours and days of work	Sunday to Friday (10:00 to 4:00). Sunday is a working day in Nepal.
Leave	All volunteers are entitled to 20 days leave per 12 months, unless advised otherwise. The same conditions and terms as local colleagues apply, including national holidays.
Professional indemnity insurance	<i>No - This assignment is not deemed to require professional indemnity insurance</i>
(Required for all volunteers who are acting as a medical, allied health or legal professional whilst on assignment.)	The volunteer should consult the partner organisation about the need for professional indemnity insurance for the role prior to departure. Where required and/or considered essential to hold this insurance, please discuss this with the Volunteer Services Manager in Melbourne prior to departure.

LIVING AS A VOLUNTEER

The Australian Volunteers Program supports volunteers from preparing to go on assignment through to returning home. For a full breakdown of support provided, please visit: <https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/lifestyle-and-support/>

Living allowance	1330 AUD per month The allowance levels are based on the cost of living in the host country location and are listed in \$AUD. Allowances will be reviewed periodically and may increase or decrease.
Accommodation allowance	300 AUD per month
Language support	Language support is provided during the in-country orientation period. Most often, additional resources for further development later in the assignment will be available if required.

Country profile	Learn more about the host country location by reading the country profile. We encourage candidates to research the specific location of this assignment as it will be discussed and addressed with a recruitment officer during the interview process. https://www.australianvolunteers.com/countries/nepal/
-----------------	---

Australian Volunteers Program

Political or faith-based activities	The Australian Volunteers Program supports partner organisations to achieve their development objectives. It does not engage in or support any evangelical activities and is not linked to any political party. We partner with local faith-based organisations on the basis that the volunteer placement does not engage in evangelising; and participation in activities run by the volunteer is not conditional on conversion or adherence to a particular religious denomination. We also partner with advocacy organisations on the basis that volunteer activities are not in support of a political party or candidate.
-------------------------------------	--

HOW TO APPLY

All applications must be submitted online through the Australian Volunteers Program website. If you have not already done so, you will need to register on our website prior to applying. For more information about how to apply, please visit:

<https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/how-it-works>

We actively support and encourage people of all backgrounds and abilities to volunteer internationally, and aim to make the program as accessible and inclusive as possible. The program has a dedicated Indigenous Programs Coordinator to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander volunteers, who can be contacted at indigenouspathways@australianvolunteers.com. Access and inclusion plans are available for volunteers with disabilities, to ensure their assignments and living and working arrangements are made more

Personal circumstances

Due to security, cultural, legal or visa restrictions associated with this location, we ask that applicants disclose:

- If they want their same-sex partner to accompany them on assignment.
- If they want their partner, to whom they are not legally married, to accompany them on assignment.
- If they want their child(ren) to accompany them on assignment.
- If they have a criminal conviction where a criminal conviction may be relevant to the inherent requirements of the assignment.