

## Friends of Suai/Covalima revised Strategic Plan 2020-25

### 2022 update:

At the Council meeting on 1 December 2021, CoPP Council made the decision to phase out the funding to Friends of Suai over a period of five years, unfortunately ceasing its financial engagement and support to the Covalima Community Centre (CCC). This will have an impact on the whole community of Covalima.

This decision to end the grant and the employment of a dedicated part-time Coordinator at the CoPP will have negative repercussions on the operation and capacity of the CCC. This consequently requires the Community Reference Committee (CRC) to revise its Strategic Plan 2020-25. Some planned strategies will not be possible to achieve with reduced resources.

The Friendship Agreement signed by Council in 2020 still remains in place and Council has committed to continuing to provide “other in-kind support and ongoing assistance to the FoSC CRC”.

### Vision

An enduring relationship between Port Phillip and Covalima communities based on friendship, mutual understanding, learning and respect.

### Purpose

Contribute to social, economic and environmental development for the benefit of the Covalima community and build our understanding of community development and cultural diversity.

### Our Values

- **Equity** - We work towards building and sustaining our relationship with Covalima municipality in a fair and impartial way, allowing give and take by both parties.
- **Respect** - Our communication is open, honest and respectful; we will act ethically, recognising each other’s wishes, rights and beliefs.
- **Integrity** - We work together to achieve our common goals through transparent democratic institutions and processes.
- **Mutual learning** - We acknowledge and value the new understandings, knowledge and skills we share and gain from each other.

### **Our Approach - Friendship Model**

The Friendship between City of Port Phillip and Covalima is a productive relationship with dialogue, trust and strategic vision. Friends of Suai/Covalima demonstrates a model where local government and the community can work productively together on a people-to-people and community-to-community basis to assist in building relationships with our regional neighbours in Timor-Leste. It is part of a wider friendship network and recognises the unequal development contexts of Australia and Timor-Leste.

Friendship relations and humanitarian support are especially important and more relevant than ever in 2022, given Australia's heightened interest in its nearest neighbours, including Timor-Leste, from a climate and geo-political point of view.

The Friendship between our two community organisations has matured and deepened over twenty years with consistent support and funding from the City of Port Phillip. It embodies a community development approach which is central to the Friendship.

It has made a major contribution in strengthening the Covalima Community Centre which has developed into a dynamic hub of training, education and innovative program development, human resource development, women's empowerment, leadership, social enterprise and building livelihoods.

For the City of Port Phillip, the Friends of Suai/Covalima program provides a platform for social connection and transformative action through which our community listens, provides support and leadership, learns about Timorese cultural heritage, builds cross-cultural understanding and enriches the lives of those who contribute.

Friends of Suai/Covalima continues to have far reaching impact that is showing itself to be sustainable and enduring whilst learning from the challenges. Our ongoing work together promotes democracy and good governance.

The Statement of Friendship sets out the understanding and intent between the citizens of Covalima and the citizens of the City of Port Phillip.

In 2016 City of Port Phillip was one of 15 local governments that signed a Municipal Agreement with Timor-Leste at a ceremony at the State Parliament to formalise cooperation to support decentralisation and the creation of municipal government in Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste is one of the newest nations in the world and one of the poorest in South-East Asia. Friends of Suai/Covalima looks forward to continuing its friendship and support for this energetic, young country as it continues to develop its potential.

**Outcome 1**

The Covalima Community Centre (CCC) and its programs are strengthened towards sustainability

**Strategies**

1. Support CCC priority programs in education, public health, climate adaptation, livelihoods, social enterprise and advocacy
2. Assist and provide mentoring support for CCC capacity strengthening priorities in areas of human resources, management and governance
3. Actively work to assist the CCC to gain funding, support and resources in light of the reduced CoPP annual grant.

**Measures of success**

Indicator	Evidence
CCC programs funded by Friends of Suai/Covalima (FoSC) are achieved and have positive impacts on the community	Program evaluations, stories of change
CCC capacity development activities funded by FoSC have positive impacts	CCC Director quarterly reporting, CCC annual report, stories of change
CCC has an annual increase in partners and external income (10% annually) reducing dependency on FoSC	CCC Annual financial report

**Outcome 2**

City of Port Phillip (CoPP) and Covalima municipality and their communities are actively engaged in cultural exchange, mutual learning and development activities

**Strategies**

1. Increase engagement with CoPP schools and youth
2. Increase engagement with community organisations, businesses and CoPP residents with the support of Councillors
3. Friends of Suai/Covalima hold community events and cultural exchanges (in person or virtual) to celebrate the friendship with the Covalima municipality.
4. Encourage reciprocal learning between the local government of CoPP and Covalima community

**Measures of success**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
The number and types of engagement between schools, students, community organisations and businesses in CoPP and Covalima municipality	CCC Director and FoSC Coordinator reports, stories of engagement, social media
Three public events or cultural exchanges held annually (in person or virtual)	Photos, social media, newsletter, annual report
FoSC supported engagement between CoPP Council and municipality of Covalima on local government issues	Annual report, social media

**Outcome 3**

Friends of Suai/Covalima is accountable, effective and efficient

**Strategies**

1. Enhance communications with CoPP Council, staff, residents and key stakeholders
2. Develop new donors and fundraising initiatives
3. Increase and diversify membership of the Community Reference Committee and its working groups
4. Implement the Community Reference Committee Terms of Reference
5. Monitor Strategic Plan and annual budget

**Measures of success**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
The number of communications and types of media utilised	FoSC Coordinator report
10% annual increase in funds raised	Annual Financial report
Annual increase in number and diversity of members and volunteers	FoSC Coordinator report, Annual report
100% compliance with Terms of Reference	FoSC Coordinator report, FoSC meeting minutes, Annual report
Annual review of Strategic Plan conducted	Review report, Annual report
Income and expenditure are aligned with budget	Community Reference Committee meeting minutes and financial reports