

INFORMATION REGARDING CHILD SPONSORSHIP- IIMC AUSTRALIA- 2025

Thank you for your interest in child educational sponsorship through the Institute for Indian Mother and Child (IIMC).

Below is some background on IIMC. The website is iimcmissioncal.org if you would like to have a look.

What does Institute for Indian Mother and Child do?

IIMC is a grassroots Non-Government, Non-profit Organisation working in the rural areas south of Kolkata, West Bengal, India. It works with women and children with an aim to empowerment through provision of skills/opportunities such as education (often via child sponsorship which includes building schools, 32 to date), microcredit programme, health worker training and medical clinics, women's cooperatives and women's peace councils. This population has been largely ignored by mainstream/ government services due to their illiteracy, their rural/isolated location and their 'low' caste and social background.

A firm link between Australia and IIMC was established in 2004. Australians have subsequently been involved in the sponsorship of over 200 children, in addition to contributing in various other ways to the project on the ground including a regular university medical student exchange since 2008.

What are the benefits to the child of sponsorship?

Sponsoring the child means you give them a chance at education, get them out of labour of other kinds, and give their family a possibility of an improved standard of living in the future by having one educated family member. It also brings the child and their family into contact with IIMC and its broader developmental projects including microcredit lending for mothers, Women's Peace Council, antenatal care, and more. Child sponsorship money is also used for building and running schools in these areas where the government does not provide any facilities.

What is the cost of child educational sponsorship?

Sponsorship costs AUD \$30/ month, ie \$360/year.

What if my sponsor child drops out of school?

If a sponsored child fails school for 2 years in a row, their educational sponsorship will be terminated and IIMC Australia will be notified by Barnali Brahmochary who is head of the programme. Failure to pass a grade for 2 consecutive years usually implies poor attendance and IIMC is not prepared to continue supporting the education in this instance. Sponsors will be given the opportunity to sponsor a different child. Similarly, if a child leaves school voluntarily or graduates from their education, sponsors will be given the option to end sponsorship or start with another child.

What is the link between IIMC and Rotary?

In 2021 IIMC was accepted as a project under the 'Rotary Australia World Community Service' (RAWCS) programme. This means that donations are now made via the Rotary portal for this project and are fully tax deductible in Australia. The Rotary Club of Freshwater Bay in Perth assisted with establishing this link and have been instrumental in helping IIMC to be endorsed by the RAWCS program. More information about RAWCS and other projects is available at <https://rawcs.org.au>.

IIMC is required to provide bi-annual reports to Rotary to show how donations are being applied at the project. Donations to any aspect of IIMC's broad developmental work- including microcredit,

women's' empowerment, and health services, as well as education/ sponsorship, are tax deductible. A receipt is issued within 48hrs of an online donation being made.

What are the steps involved with starting child sponsorship?

If you want to go ahead, please take the following steps:

1. Please email Project manager, Dr Cherie Graziotti at iimcaus@gmail.com with your full name, a postal address, a phone number and email address to contact you on. *If you are a student with a university allocated email, please also provide an alternative (personal) email for when you have finished your studies.*
2. You will be sent an electronic copy of your sponsor child's file, and posted the original (if not collected by you in person at IIMC). You will be added to the IIMC Australia register of members. Take note of the child's name and a file number (written on top near the name).
3. The link to the payment portal is

<https://donations.rawcs.com.au/15-2021-22>

Please follow the prompts to set up your once-off or recurring donation. Twice a year all the money in this account is transferred in bulk to IIMC in Kolkata. **Those electing to make recurring payments will be sent an email ahead of the payment being deducted, as a reminder. For those making once-off payments there is no reminder system in place.**

How will I keep track of my sponsor child's progress?

You will receive the child's school reports. The child will also send you a letter and greeting card each year. Once the COVID situation improves, you are welcome to visit the child and their family in India and this can be arranged by writing to Dr Sujit and Barnali at iimcmission@gmail.com.

What has happened during COVID?

For a period of several months, the area around Kolkata was heavily impacted by COVID and resultant lockdowns. IIMC schools were closed for the large proportion of 2020 and early 2021. During this time, all educational money was diverted to a large aid effort undertaken by IIMC, sourcing and distributing essential supplies (such as rice, dahl, ghee, soap) to thousands of families across West Bengal. Public health messaging, education around social distancing and the importance of immunisation, were provided to families by local IIMC volunteers and staff. Schools were reopened in 2022.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting this project. Please email iimcaus@gmail.com if further information is required.

Sincerely,



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