

Tears of Vanni Projects” projects with Ceylon Tamil Association South Australia (CTA SA)

Ceylon Tamil Association (CTA) of SA Inc. is one of the oldest community associations in South Australia which was established in 1983. CTA is a not-for-profit community organisation fully managed by volunteers in South Australia. The primary objectives of CTA are to promote multiculturalism among communities in Australia and activities that foster interest in Tamil culture and language among Tamils and Australians. CTA also helps promote the plight of Sri Lankan refugees and promotes awareness of Sri Lankan Tamils’ affairs and aspirations to Australians.

Vanni Rehabilitation (Tears of Vanni) have been working with CTA from 2013. In 2013, Tears of Vanni approached CTA to support some of the projects they have been doing in north-east of Sri Lanka for the war affected people. In 2016 and 17, CTA continued the association with Tears of Vanni as of the wishes of their members. CTA mainly engages with Vanni Rehabilitation, since funds transfers were transparent, all the expenses were documented, and CTA get regular progress reports and follow up reference to the Projects delivered. In 2018 also, we are working with CTA to help the affected people in North and East of Sri Lanka.

We are pleased to record that with CTA sponsorship, we have successfully completed 14 livelihood projects in last 2 years from the fund collected at the CTA Annual Fundraising Dinners in 2016 and 2017 (approx. A\$ 23,000) to support disadvantaged children, disabled and women headed families in the war-torn area of North and East of Sri Lanka.

The much-needed projects were identified by Tears of Vanni dedicated on-field volunteers. It is noted that these disadvantaged people have got little or no help from other organisations. In addition, a few dedicated volunteers of various local community members, school teachers and village officers (Grama Sevakas) assisted Vanni Rehabilitation to identify and implement the projects in Sri Lanka.

Most of the projects undertaken by CTA to date via Tears of Vanni, can be categorised as: income generation – including microfinance for small business development; basic education and training for primary, and secondary students; and water supply and sanitation by providing access to safe water.