

What is the TOS?

The Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) is a world-wide organisation based on recognition of the unity of all life and aimed at reducing suffering and injustice at all levels – human, animal and environmental.

The TOS was founded in 1908 by Dr Annie Besant, then International President of the Theosophical Society, to provide an opportunity for participation in activities which promote the first Object of the Theosophical Society: 'to form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour'.



The TOS is a separate organisation from The Theosophical Society but is closely linked with it. Study, meditation and service are the three components of theosophical living. The TOS provides a framework in which theosophical principles can be applied in daily life and to issues of contemporary concern.

The distinctive, two-fold purpose of the TOS is selfless service to the needy and suffering and the inner transformation of the server that this requires. Dr Besant summarised the mission of the TOS in its motto: ***A union of those who love in the service of all that suffers.***

Today there are active TOS groups around the world, united in their ideal of selfless service.

The TOS is a non-profit organisation whose members are its greatest resource. They work as unpaid volunteers and donations are used for service projects, not for administration.

What does the TOS do in Australia?

In Australia, we work in six inter-related areas of service: peace, social welfare, education, healing, animal welfare and the environment.

Members may work on individually selected activities or on group projects, sometimes in partnership with other groups.

At a local level

TOS members are involved in a wide range of service activities in their local communities. These include:

- organising Peace Day Gatherings
- holding meditations for World Peace
- conducting craft workshops to introduce young people to TOS service work and raise funds for projects



- partnering with community groups
- raising awareness of issues through conducting talks and seminars on a variety of topics associated with the TOS service areas
- tutoring refugees in English and helping them adjust to Australian society
- adopting a refuge for homeless women
- volunteering in aged-care centres
- knitting squares to make blankets
- raising funds for local charities

- gardening for a local hospice and a cancer centre
- collecting toys and clothes for relief appeals
- raising awareness about climate change and personal actions to minimise our energy and water usage
- collecting signatures on petitions for the welfare of people and animals.

At a national level

The *TOS in Australia* supports local groups and coordinates national activities. Together, local TOS groups and the National TOS provide funds for many projects organised by the TOS in Asia and Africa. For example, groups and individuals make donations to the Golden Link College in the Philippines, the Adyar Animal Hospital, Educational scholarships for students in Pakistan and famine relief in Kenya.

Currently we have **three projects as a national focus**. We fund four literacy home-schools run by the TOS in Pakistan for children and young girls who have no opportunity to have even a basic education.

We support the SEE Project organised by the Chennai TOS in India. This project provides free vision screening, spectacles and cataract operations for needy people.

In 2010 we are also supporting the Heart Babies Project in Tanzania, by providing travel kits for the children and their carers when they travel to India for heart surgery.

See our TOS website for more about these projects.



Membership

The TOS welcomes all who are in sympathy with its aims and wish to put into practice the concept of the Universal Oneness of all life.

You do not need to be a member of the Theosophical Society to join the TOS or participate in its work. We welcome any contribution to our work – time, energy, money and expertise.

You are invited to contact your local TOS group and work with us for peace, planet sustainability, compassion and harmony.

For more information contact:

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To learn more about us:

- visit our Australian TOS webpages at:
www.austheos.org.au/tos/
- visit our international website at:
<http://international.theoservice.org/>

Please join us in putting theosophy into action

The Theosophical Order of Service is active throughout Australia.

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The Theosophical Order of Service in Australia

Do you care about:

- ✦ peace
- ✦ justice
- ✦ the welfare of people and animals
- ✦ the environment
- ✦ healing?

The TOS invites you to join its members who are working to make a difference in these areas.