AUSTRALIA TIBET COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2019





CONTENTS



Who we are	1
Message from the Co-chair/Treasurer	2
From the Executive Officer	
Our campaigns	4
Your impact in 2019	
Governance	7
Our community	8
Fundraising and financial reports	



WHO WE ARE

Australia Tibet Council campaigns for the human rights and freedom of Tibetans. We are a not-for-profit organisation funded by members across Australia. Founded in 1988, we are the largest community of Australians standing in solidarity with the people of Tibet. We are inspired by the Tibetans who oppose China's occupation of their homeland with courage, hope and tenacity and who resist abuses of their fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Our objective

ATC's objective is to pursue the following charitable purposes:

- (a) to work to achieve United Nations
 Resolution 1723 of 1961 which calls for "the cessation of practices which deprive the Tibetan people of their fundamental human rights and freedoms, including their right to self-determination";
- (b) to raise awareness of the situation in Tibet at all levels of Australian society, by encouraging government and community leaders to take positive action, and by supporting appropriate Australian and international initiatives; and
- (c) to do all other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of these objects or any of them or which may be calculated to advance directly or indirectly ATC's interests.

Our vision

A free Tibet in which Tibetans can determine their future, and freely pursue their religious practices and their political, cultural and economic development.

What we do

We raise awareness about human rights in Tibet.

We ensure our decision-makers get accurate information and we challenge misrepresentations of the actual situation in Tibet.

We lobby the Australian parliament and government to take a firm, principled stand on human rights in Tibet.

We amplify the voices of Tibetans and ensure the Australian and international communities hear their stories as China intensifies its efforts to control the discourse on human rights in Tibet.

We implement focussed campaigns which are designed to support our objective.

We contribute to international efforts to raise awareness about human rights in Tibet and to support the Tibetan people.

CO-CHAIR/TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Dear Members.

I am pleased to present the Australia Tibet Council's Annual Report for 2019.

Not-for-profits operate in a challenging world, and Australia Tibet Council (ATC) is no exception. In an environment of economic uncertainty and increasingly severe repression of fundamental human rights and freedoms in Tibet, ATC continues to keep the Tibet issue in the national consciousness.

On my visit to Dharamsala last year, His Holiness the Dalai Lama commented that it is very important that there are voices in international forums on the Tibetan situation.

In 2019 ATC contributed to these global voices. ATC supported our Executive and Campaigns Officer in attending the United Nations COP25 in Madrid. She spoke on Tibetan human rights in the context of Chinese disinformation about the Tibetan environmental crisis.

ATC has gained some successes over the past year, not the least of which was seeing the closure of China's Confucius Institute programs at 13 public schools in New South Wales. This result is an important challenge to the Chinese government's flagrant denials of human rights abuses in Tibet.

ATC is able to do what it does because of the passion, dedication and hard work of a small team of staff, volunteers and board members. I thank you all for the time and effort you put into ATC every day.

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of all our members. One example of that support is the Ethical Jobs contribution to our 2019 end of year campaign with a dollar for dollar matching program.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who regularly donate and respond to our fundraising appeals. Your financial support of ATC is crucial to its ongoing survival.

During the year, we revised ATC's constitution and reviewed its governance procedures so that we can better serve our members and further the goals of the organisation.

Overall, 2019 has been a positive year. Despite its ongoing resourcing constraints, ATC goes into 2020 re-invigorated, and with even greater determination to continue to keep Tibet on the agenda and to effect meaningful change in Tibet.



HAL YOUNGATC Co-chair and Treasurer

FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Tashi Delek!

As a Tibetan, I am humbled by the support and generosity of our members and supporters across the country.

2019 marked 60 years of Tibetan resistance against China's occupation of our homeland. The situation inside Tibet has remained as critical as ever. For the fourth year in a row, Tibet was ranked the second least free country in the world, next only to Syria. But the Tibetan spirit of resistance remains as strong as ever. This faith in justice, powered by the support of our community, has underpinned our work at ATC. Together we have kept the issue of human rights in Tibet alive in Australia.

We have challenged China's misrepresentations of the actual human rights situation in Tibet. And we have amplified the voices of Tibetans here in our national capital, at the UN as well as in the media. Thank you or as we say in Tibetan, thuk jey chey.

2019 was a big year for ATC. We secured a significant campaign victory with the termination of the NSW Government's Chinese language program funded and controlled by the Chinese government. This program banned discussion of the human rights situation in Tibet, in contravention of NSW government education policy.

A personal highlight for me in 2019 was travelling to the UN Climate Action Summit in Madrid to take the voices of Tibetans into the most critical debate of our times and to show how Chinese Government imposed environmental policies are negatively

impacting on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Tibetan people.

It was so inspiring to see our movement growing stronger and bigger during the year. We saw a dedicated cohort of volunteers in Sydney coming together to support our small staff team. To every single member, supporter, volunteer and partner, I want to say thank you for your contribution.

The challenges in front of us are enormous. But I am excited by the opportunities we have in helping build a more just and compassionate world. China's role in the coronavirus pandemic has put the Chinese government under greater scrutiny. The pandemic also demonstrates the wisdom of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Tibetan culture rooted in the Buddhist philosophy of interdependence and universal responsibility.

ATC's focus on human rights in Tibet helps protect this rich Tibetan culture and show why Tibet matters to the world.

I look forward to your continuing support for ATC and the Tibetan people in our mission to protect human rights and restore freedom in Tibet.



KYINZOM DHONGDUEATC Executive and Campaigns Officer

OUR CAMPAIGNS

All our campaigns support ATC's objective: to work for the cessation of practices which deprive Tibetans of their fundamental human rights and freedoms, and to raise awareness of the situation in Tibet at all levels of Australian society.

In 2019, we streamlined our campaign work to focus on three issues: strengthening Australian political support for human rights in Tibet, justice for Tibetan nomads, and challenging China's misrepresentations of human rights in Tibet.



Strengthening political support for human rights in Tibet

Advocacy driven by grassroots support is a core part of our work at ATC.

In the lead up to the federal election last May, we ensured that our political parties and candidates understand that Tibet matters to Tibetan-Australians and our broader community. Through questionnaires and face-to-face meetings in electorates, we asked our political candidates and parties where they stood on human rights in Tibet and sought their support for action if elected.

Following the election, we lost several key supporters in the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet including Michael Danby MP and Senator Lisa Singh. We take this opportunity to thank them for their unwavering support and keeping human rights in Tibet on the parliamentary agenda for many years. We are looking forward to working with the members of the revived Tibet Group in the 46th Parliament.

In 2019, the main objective of our advocacy work was to build support for legislation to help end the isolation of Tibet from the international community. As the Chinese Government restricts access to Tibet, it is increasingly difficult for the outside world to learn of the actual human rights situation in Tibet.

ATC is lobbying for legislation that would allow Chinese journalists, diplomats and citizens to travel freely in Australia provided that the Chinese Government allows Australian journalists, diplomats and citizens to travel freely in Tibet and China. The US Congress has passed similar legislation, the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act.

2019 saw one of our most successful Tibet Lobby Days. In September, our delegation met close to 50 MPs and Senators, building support for the first Australian legislation on Tibet. We co-organised the ninth Tibet Lobby Day with the Australian Tibetan Community Association. We provided 16 Tibetan-Australians including local community leaders, former political prisoners and youth activists, with intensive training in advocacy before the Lobby Day.

Justice for Tibetan Nomads

China's launch of a new system of national parks in Tibet in 2020 will accelerate the forced displacement of Tibetan nomads from the land on which they have lived sustainably for centuries.

The centrepiece of our campaign was the publication of the report An Iron Fist in a Green Glove. The report challenges China's environmental justifications for removing Tibet's nomads from their ancestral lands and traditional lifestyle. It demonstrates how this is an attack on their fundamental human rights by highlighting how the forced displacement, without compensation, to poorly built permanent housing with poor infrastructure will increase poverty and disadvantage in the Tibetan population.

In December, we took the report to the UN Climate Action Summit Madrid to ensure that the voices of the Tibetans, in particular the nomads, are heard.



Say No to China's misrepresentation of the situation in Tibet

Under the guise of teaching Chinese language and culture, the Confucius Institutes are a propaganda outfit of the Chinese Government which aim to censor and silence discussion on human rights in Tibet and elsewhere.

The NSW Department of Education had an agreement with the Chinese Government for a Confucius Institute to provide a Chinese Government-funded-and-controlled program in 13 NSW public schools. The Confucius Classrooms banned discussion of human rights in Tibet in contravention of the NSW schools policy which allows freedom of discussion.

After sustained campaigning and working in close collaboration with our allies - academics, Chinese democracy activists, Falun Gong practitioners and others - ATC enjoyed a major campaign achievement when it successfully persuaded the NSW Government to review the agreement, which subsequently ended in December 2019.

YOUR IMPACT IN 2019

On 10 March, for the first time in many years, a local council raised Tibet's national flag to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Tibetan Uprising Day. We thank the Blue Mountains City Council and the Greens councillor and ATC member Kerry Brown who was instrumental in making this possible. Thanks also go to the local Tibetan community and our supporters in the area for their efforts.

In June, we published a pioneering report, An Iron Fist in a Green Glove, to challenge China's plan to forcibly remove Tibetan nomads from their ancestral land and destroy their traditional lifestyles in the name of environmental protection.

In September, 16 Tibetan-Australians, including former political prisoners, community leaders and youth activists, travelled to Canberra to share their Tibet story and received training in media and advocacy.

In December, we attended the UN Climate Change Conference in Madrid, where we briefed officials and civil society members on how China's environment policies negatively impact the fundamental human rights and freedoms of Tibetans and met with indigenous and frontline communities to show solidarity and build alliances.

In December, in an Australian first, after lobbying from ATC and others, the New South Wales Government closed its Chinese Government-funded-andcontrolled language programs which banned discussion of human rights in Tibet.

Throughout the year, we held around 100 meetings with politicians to keep human rights in Tibet on Australia's parliamentary agenda.

Throughout the year, stories about human rights in Tibet and our campaigns were covered in a variety of media outlets.



GOVERNANCE

In 2019, ATC's Board of Directors undertook to seek charity status for the organisation. We hope to realise a number of benefits from status as a charity.

As part of the work to apply for charity status, the Board agreed to review ATC's Constitution which had been adopted in 2006. The Board established a Governance Sub-Committee consisting of directors, members and staff to undertake the review. Upon endorsing the Sub-Committee's revised Constitution, the Board submitted it to members for approval.

In November, a Special General Meeting of members adopted the new Constitution. ATC's Board then submitted the new Constitution to the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) for approval as part of our application for registration as a charity.

Our application for registration as a charity under the ACNC Act does not impact our noneligibility for Designated Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

On 18 November 2019, the Board appointed Mark Openshaw as ATC's Company Secretary. The appointment is for two years and is not remunerated. The Company Secretary assists the Board in ensuring that ATC meets its regulatory requirements and assists the Chair in the administration of Board meetings.



OUR COMMUNITY

Members & donors

We have a dedicated and generous community of supporters with a shared passion for preserving Tibetan culture and supporting the people of Tibet in their fight for human rights, freedom and justice.

Through their monthly donations, the 248 Voice for Tibet members provide us with the most reliable source of funding to undertake our vital work month after month, year after year. Additionally, we have 180 life members, 158 legacy members who continue to make annual donations, and one-off donors who respond to various fundraising appeals throughout the year.

Volunteers

One of the key achievements of our ATC community in 2019 was the expansion of our volunteer program, which recruited new members but also re-activated previously active supporters. Around 50 volunteers across the the states offered their support in various areas, including fundraising, communications and campaigns.

Board member Annie Wale served as the volunteer coordinator and led a cohort of 20-plus volunteers in Sydney, who regularly came together to assist the staff. The team ran a monthly ATC stall selling second-hand books at the weekend market in Sydney's inner west suburb of Rozelle. The stall has become a popular hub for volunteers to meet and raise awareness of the Tibet issue.

Another small group based in Brisbane helped to run an ATC stall at the annual Festival of Tibet. It hosted its annual fundraising dinner celebrating the Dalai Lama's birthday at the Himalayan Cafe in New Farm.

At our annual strategy meeting in November, we renamed the volunteer program as the Tibet Action Group.

ATC expresses its deep gratitude to these volunteers whose dedication enhances our capacity to campaign for the people of Tibet.



Board



Hal Young is the Co-chair and Treasurer at ATC. He worked in IT with Qantas and Jetstar Airlines for over 30 years. He also served as the treasurer at Tara Institute in Melbourne and was part of the organising committee for the Dalai Lama's Australia tour in 1992. He joined the Board in 2014. Hal has a B.A. from Carleton University in Canada, a Diploma in Education from Melbourne University and Graduate Diploma in Data Processing from Monash University.



Sonam Paljor is the Co-chair at ATC. He works with the NSW Health Department. Before moving to Australia, he had worked at the Department of Health at Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamsala. Sonam was born at the Dolanji Tibetan refugee settlement in northern India. He has a Bachelor of Science from Punjab University and a Masters in International Public Health from Sydney University. He joined the Board in 2014.



Katie Camarena holds a Bachelor of International Studies from the University of New South Wales and a Graduate Certificate in International Health from Curtin University. She has worked in digital communications at Greenpeace Australia Pacific, Inspired Adventures and Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA. She had also worked for the Burma Children Medical Fund based on the Thai-Burma Border. Katie has been a volunteer with Australia Tibet Council since 2000 and worked in the national office between 2003 and 2007. She joined the Board in 2014.



Annie Wale has been a long-time Tibet supporter, witnessing the lead-up to the 1987 uprising while in Lhasa. She now teaches regularly in Dharamsala with the Dalai Lama's Science and Monastics initiative. She has worked in environmental education at the Australian Museum, Taronga Zoo and Royal Botanical Gardens and was a founding board member of WIRES. She is also an active environmental campaigner and is a SIDS grief support worker with Red Nose. Annie has a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in Education from the University of New South Wales.

The two following ATC board members resigned in 2019.



Lesley Dimmock has been a passionate supporter of the Tibet cause for more than a decade, visiting Tibet in 2006 and formally joining ATC in 2007. She was an active member of the Queensland ATC Branch and was the Branch Secretary and State Convenor. She joined the Board in 2016. Lesley works in the Brisbane local government. She is the author of two novels.



Justine Curtis is the founder and CEO of Inspired Adventures. A meeting with one of Tibet's oldest political prisoners Palden Gyatso inspired her to start her business helping charities raise funds through adventure travel. She ran her first charity adventure, the Trek for Tibet, to Dharamsala in 2005, raising \$55,000 for Australia Tibet Council. Justine is the winner of many prestigious business awards including Telstra Female Business Owner of the Year NSW.

Staff



Kyinzom Dhongdue took on the role of ATC's Executive and Campaigns Officer in 2018. She was previously ATC's Campaigns Manager. Kyinzom is the first Member of Tibet's Parliament-in-Exile representing the Tibetan community in Australasia and East Asia.Born to Tibetan refugee parents in southern India, she was schooled at the Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala. She studied English literature at Delhi University and journalism at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication. She worked as a journalist in New Delhi before moving to Australia in 2006.



Gemima Harvey, ATC's Digital Campaigner, has a background in journalism, photography, communications and digital marketing. Previously, she worked as Communications Officer for a charity based in Cambodia. Before moving into the not-for-profit sector, Gemima worked as an international freelance journalist and photographer focusing on forced migration, human rights and social justice issues. Gemima has a Master of Refugee Protection and Forced Migration from the University of London, and a Bachelor of Journalism from Griffith University.

Company secretary



Mark Openshaw, ATC's Company Secretary, has been an ATC member for twenty-five years. Mark has worked as a policy adviser to the NSW Government, at the Organisation of Economic Development in Paris and for the Australian Government in Canberra. Mark has a Bachelor of Economics from Sydney University, a graduate degree in geography from the Australian National University and a Master of Arts from Macquarie University.



FUNDRAISING & FINANCIAL REPORTS

ATC does not receive any government funding; therefore is 100% community funded and reliant on funds from supporters and the broader community to support its work.

Voice for Tibet memberships is the largest, and most regular and reliable income stream. This is followed by appeals tied to specific campaigns, raffles, events and merchandise. However, they are less stable and more time-consuming.

Last year, we introduced two innovative ventures in 2019 – an online auction and a Trek for Tibet. The online auction was exceptionally well received, with donated prizes pouring in from around the country. A small and enthusiastic group of people committed themselves to Trek for Tibet, undertaking a demanding regime of training and fundraising before embarking on a nine-day trip to Dharamsala in northern India where they trekked for four days.

We would like to extend our special thanks to Ethical Jobs for supporting us with a matching dollar campaign. This contribution has helped put ATC on a firm footing at the beginning of 2020, an extremely challenging year for the not-for-profit sector affected by one unprecedented crisis after another.



SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	\$2019	\$2018
Income		
Membership	69,712.26	62,898.64
Appeals and donations	43,717.71	88,226.41
Merchandise and raffles	42,518.91	28,169.41
Events	13,266.70	16,100.07
Grants	1,527.00	19,656.97
Total income	170,742.58*	215,051.50
Expenditure		
Campaigns	93,976.94	104,664.29
Fundraising	47,052.90	48,811.75
Administration	32,705.72	43,951.69
Total expenditure	173,735.56*	197,427.73

^{*}These do not include the funding that ATC received and passed on to a Tibetan group in exile.

BALANCE SHEET

AUSTRALIA TIBET COUNCIL LIMITED ABN 15 088 312 529

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2019

English State of the State of t	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash assets		26,098.67	27,806.94
Total Current Assets		26,098.67	27,806.94
Total Assets	٠,	26,098.67	27,806.94
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Financial liabilities		457.43	
Current tax liabilities		5,112.76	3,840.04
Provisions		10,076.37	7,778.98
Total Current Liabilities		15,646.56	11,619.02
Total Liabilities		15,646.56	11,619.02
Net Assets		10,452.11	16,187.92
Equity			
Retained profits		10,452.11	16,187.92
Total Equity		10,452.11	16,187.92

THE AUDITOR'S REPORT



Australia Tibet Council Limited

ABN 15 088 312 529

Review of Financial Report to the Members of Australia Tibet Council Limited

Report on the Financial Report

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report of Australia Tibet Council Limited (Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flow for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The director's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimate that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on review Engagements ASRE 2415 Review of a Financial Report – Company Limited by Guarantee, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, we have become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the financial report is not in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 including: giving a true fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2019 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards and Corporations Regulations 2001. ASRE 2415 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the directors of Australia Tibet Council Limited, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.



63 Wigram Street Harris Park NSW 2150 PO Box 9139 Harris Park NSW 2150 Ph: 02 9635 1937

E: tax@ajosephco.com.au | W: www.ajosephco.com.au Limited Liability by a Scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

Qualification

As is common for organisation of this type, it is not practicable for the company to maintain an effective system of internal control over donations, subscriptions and other fund raising activities, especially those of the state branches, until the monies are banked. Accordingly, our audit in relation to funds from the above activities was limited to amounts recorded.

Qualified Conclusion

Based on our review, which is not an audit, with the exception of the matter described in the preceding paragraphs, nothing has come to our attention that makes us believe that the financial report of Australia Tibet Council Limited is not in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* including:

- (a) Giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2019 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Corporations Regulations 2001.

Emphasis Matter-

Basis of Accounting

We draw your attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of
accounting. The financial report has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the
company's constitution and meet the needs of the members. As a result, financial report may
not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

A JOSEPH & CO Chartered Accountants

Alisten Joseph

Registered Company Auditor 424462

63 Wigram Street

Harris Park NSW 2150

Dated this day of May ... 2020



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The people of Tibet need your help. Please visit our website where you can take the following actions and support our vital work for human rights for Tibetans.

www.atc.org.au

Stay informed

Our supporters are essential for our movement. When you subscribe to our mailing list, you will receive regular email updates about our campaigns and how you can take part to show your support.

Be a Voice for Tibet

Our membership program is called Voice For Tibet. This is a monthly giving program that provides us with the most reliable source of funding. By becoming a Voice for Tibet, you join a dedicated group of members powering our campaigns, month after month, year after year. As a monthly giving member, you can help shape the direction of the organisation by standing for board positions and sharing your passion and skills to champion the Tibet cause.

Make a one-off donation

If you are not in a position to become a member right now, please consider making a one-off donation. Every contribution helps. It drives every single campaign.

Become a volunteer

Volunteering is a great way to meet like-minded people while helping to make a positive change in the world. At Australia Tibet Council, the passion and dedication of our volunteers are vital to our ongoing campaigns to promote freedom and human rights for Tibetans.ATC volunteers can work from anywhere in Australia. We don't have a physical office. You can work on one event or campaign for a short time or take on a more significant role to support ATC throughout the year.

Leave a bequest

Including a gift in your will to Australia Tibet Council can make a profound difference, allowing us to continue working for Tibet far into the future. After taking care of your nearest and dearest, we hope you will consider leaving a legacy for Tibet. Your support will help provide us with critical resources to continue our work until the Tibetans win genuine freedom. Any gift, large or small, will be a lasting legacy of your compassion and support for the Tibetan people.