

Australia Tibet Council

Annual Report 2023



JUNE 2024

AUSTRALIA
TIBET
COUNCIL

Contents



Who we are.....	1
Message from the Co-chairs.....	4
From the Executive Officer.....	7
Our campaigns.....	10
Governance.....	21
ATC Volunteers.....	22
ATC Directors.....	22
Fundraising and financial reports.....	27



In the spirit of reconciliation, the Australia Tibet Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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, resisting abuses of their fundamental human rights and freedoms.

ATC is an independent movement, funded by its members and supporters. We are independent of any government, political party, ideology, economic interest or religion.



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 objectives or any of them which may be calculated to advance directly or indirectly ATC's interests.

OUR VISION

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

ATC Values

ATC enables everyone in Australia to raise awareness of the real situation in Tibet and build public and political support for Tibetans' human rights. We empower Tibetans in Australia to become effective advocates and play an active role in the global Tibet movement.



VALUES

Putting the interest of Tibetans at the heart of everything we do.

ATC exists to support Tibetans in their quest for self-determination and help restore freedom in Tibet. Amplifying Tibetan actions and voices is at the heart of all our campaigns.

We build people power.

Our work is made possible by our members and supporters who believe in our social justice values. We empower our community to take action for Tibet, collaborating with diverse stakeholders for maximum impact.

We hold ourselves to the highest standards.

We are resourceful with funds provided by members and supporters, valuing the trust placed in us by our community. We recognise the significance of protecting the information of members through a secure database.

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 governments 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 focused campaigns which are designed to support our objectives.

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





Message from the Co-Chairs

Dear Members,

In 2023, Australia Tibet Council commissioned research by polling company Essential Media asking people whether Australia should re-engage in trade relations with China given their human rights abuses against Tibetans, Hong Kongers and Uyghurs.

The findings were no surprise to us at ATC. **Two-thirds of Australians value human rights accountability above trade with China.**

More specifically, 48% of Australians surveyed said they would only support a resumption of trade relations with China if there was increased human rights accountability, while 18% said they would not support a resumption of trade relations with China at all because of their human rights failings.

Of course, we know that many Australians care about Tibet and for decades Tibet-

-supporters in Australia have shown their unflinching support for Tibetans. It is disappointing that, while human rights are declining even further in Tibet, the Australian Government is rewarding Chinese Government officials with trade deals rather than issuing *Magnitsky* sanctions for their human rights abuses.

Australia Tibet Council raised key issues with the Australian Government in 2023, including asking the Prime Minister to take multilateral action condemning Chinese government officials for their policy that is currently separating up to one million Tibetan children from their families.

Occupied for over seven decades, China's rule in Tibet is one of the last remnants of 20th-century colonialism. This is epitomised by a vast and alarming system of colonial boarding schools and pre-schools housing close to *one million* Tibetan children.

With Tibet's population estimated to be between 6 and 7 million, this equates to *three out of every four Tibetan students* aged between 6 and 18 being separated from their parents and communities and living under state control. On top of this, it is estimated at least 100 to 150 thousand pre-schoolers — four-and five-year-olds — in rural areas are being forced to attend boarding pre-schools where they must sleep at least five nights a week away from the care and protection of their parents.

On 6 February 2023, a group of UN human rights experts released a statement expressing alarm about the residential school system for Tibetan children, stating that it “*appears to act as a mandatory large-scale programme intended to assimilate Tibetans into majority Han culture, contrary to international human rights standards.*”

Further concern was raised by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in Geneva, where expert committee members reiterated strong concern about the erosion of Tibetan language “*in the push for a unified curriculum and the national common language policy*”. A language policy which has resulted in Tibetan being replaced by Chinese as the medium of instruction in schools throughout Tibet, including in the-

kindergartens where Tibetan children “as young as four to six are being sent to boarding schools where they are completely deprived of access to their language and their culture”.

By intentionally uprooting Tibetan children from their families and culture, and making them live in state-run boarding schools, the Chinese authorities are using one of the most heinous tools of colonisation to attack Tibetan identity.

While China claims to be educating Tibetan children, the world knows what it looks like when children are pushed into residential schools run by a state that wants to wipe out their culture, resulting in high levels of alienation, loss of identity and language, and intergenerational trauma — it looks like cultural genocide.

Tibet supporters across Australia got behind our colonial boarding schools campaign, as many could appreciate that this Chinese government policy has a striking similarity to Australia's own sad colonialist history and the Stolen Generation.

It is unfathomable that this practice should be seen anywhere in the world in the 21st century. The practice of removing children from their homes-

-for the purpose of assimilation and cultural eradication should be confined to the dustbin of history.

ATC supporters also urged the Australian Government to issue *Magnitsky* Sanctions to CCP officials responsible for this policy of cultural genocide in Tibet. This campaign is not over yet, and ATC is continuing to push for a resolution in 2024 as the world can not simply stand by while this takes place in Tibet.

As Co-Chairs of the ATC Board of Directors, we want to express our gratitude for your commitment to furthering the Tibetan cause. We thank all ATC supporters who took part in online actions, signed petitions and wrote to their members of parliament about Tibet. We also thank our members and generous donors – we could not gain these meaningful outcomes for Tibet without you!



**Katie Camarena &
Tenzin Lobsang
Khangsar**

Co-Chairs of ATC Board





From the Executive Officer

During 2023, we unfortunately saw Australian government officials visit China to try to re-establish trade relations. A relationship which, throughout 50 years of Australia-China diplomacy, has only served to enrich both countries at the expense of silence on Tibet.

During his 2023 visit to China, the Prime Minister said, “We need to cooperate with China where we can, disagree where we must”. ‘Agreeing to disagree’ is designed to sound very reasonable and diplomatic, but clearly it is easier to put human rights aside, as merely some sort of philosophical difference of opinion, when it is not you who are having your human rights violated.

‘Agreeing to disagree’ does nothing to-

-help Tibetans, Uyghurs, Hong Kongers, Chinese democracy activists, environment and human rights activists across China, people being held as political prisoners, and people being denied their fundamental human rights.

Since Australia began diplomatic visits to China 50 years ago with the visit by Gough Whitlam, the situation for Tibetans under Chinese occupation has not improved. In fact, with each year it has become more desperate.

The repeated failure of Australia and other governments from around the world to push back on the human rights abuses and totalitarian policies going on in China has just emboldened their oppressive behaviour.

This emboldened oppression has led to-

-the current situation where the UN is investigating China for forced labour in Tibet, for numerous political prisoners in Tibet, and for what the UN has described as the ‘forced assimilation’ of Tibetan children into Chinese Government-run boarding institutions where the children are taught in Chinese language and are not allowed to practise Tibetan culture or religion.

Up to one million Tibetan children are now considered to be Tibet’s stolen generation.

In the 50 years of diplomacy, Australia and China have enjoyed the economic ‘mutual benefit’, but the Australian government’s silence while raising China’s economic fortunes has only led to an emboldened and aggressive China — determined to continue to occupy Tibet and eliminate Tibetan identity.

After his visit to China, the Prime Minister told the media “I used this visit to advocate for Australia’s interests including on trade, consular, human rights and regional and global issues.” That statement was the totality of the information revealed about the raising of human rights — core Australian values — during the visit.

We cannot continue to simply ‘agree to disagree’ on such things.

Those affected by China’s human rights abuses deserve more accountability from the Australian Government. For survivors of China’s abuse, this is not a philosophical or ideological difference that can be easily put aside while the discussion turns to the trading of wine and lobster.

In 2023, China also ramped up their efforts to try to wipe the name Tibet off the map. More than six decades since its occupation of Tibet began, China in 2023 made a push to replace the internationally recognized name “Tibet” with the Chinese-language word “Xizang.” Australia Tibet Council and other Tibet support groups worldwide kept up relentless efforts to protect Tibetan culture while advancing new ways to bring the Tibet-China conflict to a resolution.

Australia Tibet Council’s campaigning and the actions taken by our members and supporters are having an impact:

- On 1 March 2023, in Geneva, Assistant Foreign Minister Watts delivered Australia's national statement at the High-Level Segment of the fifty-second session of the Human Rights Council, stating “Australia’s concerns about reports of the erosion of education, religious, cultural and linguistic-

-rights and freedoms in Tibet.”

- Foreign Minister Penny Wong has faced repeated statements and questions about Tibet from Senators and MPs lobbied by ATC.
- In 2023 Australia Tibet Council met with 47 members of Parliament, which is approx 20% of our Federal Parliamentarians, from across all parties including minor parties and Independents.
- We also worked with Senators to bring about a historic 30-minute ‘Matter of Public Importance Debate’ in the Senate which saw nine Senators speak about the threats to the future of the Dalai Lama, the one million Tibetan children separated from their families, forced labour in Tibet and China’s attacks on Tibetan language, culture and religion.

While progress is slow, it is being made. The work of Australia Tibet Council and Tibet supporters across Australia is being noticed.

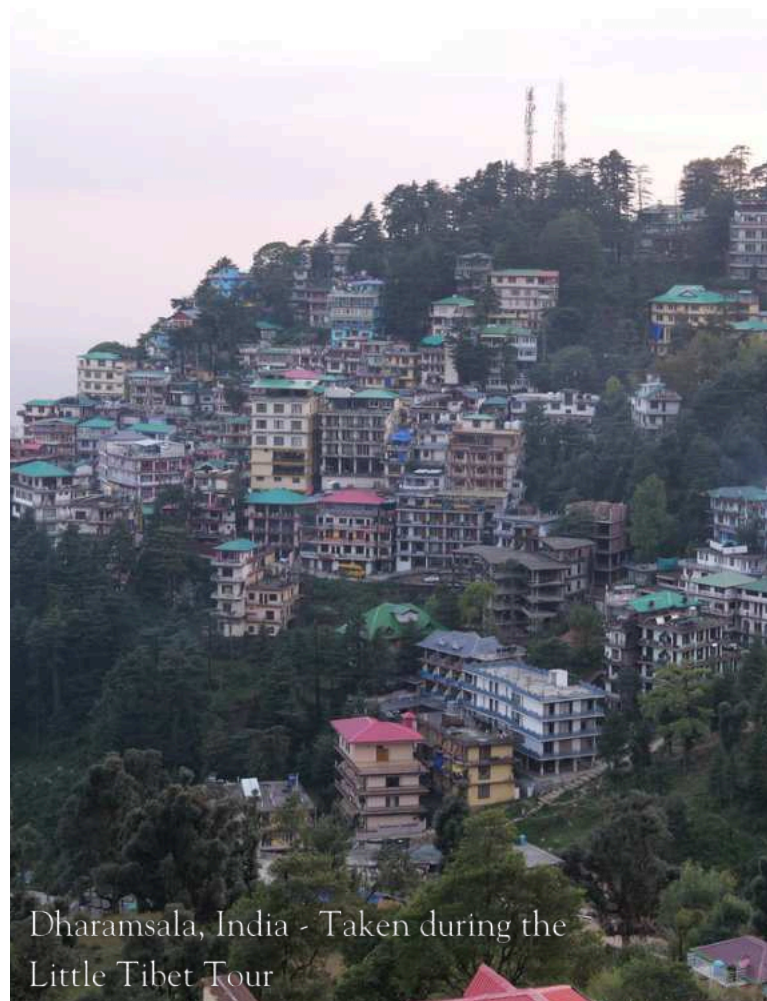
Now, as always, there is still much more work to be done and I thank you, our dedicated and long-term supporters of Tibet for supporting the work of ATC and not allowing the Australian Government to go silent on Tibet.

With metta (loving-kindness)



Dr. Zoë Bedford

ATC Executive Officer



Dharamsala, India - Taken during the Little Tibet Tour

Our campaigns

Sanctioning China's Leaders

Australia has sanctioned individuals responsible for human rights abuses in Russia, Iran and Myanmar using Magnitsky-style sanctions. Surprisingly, no Chinese officials have yet been sanctioned for their human rights violations in Tibet.

The Australian Government's commitment to human rights in China is only as strong as its ability to hold the most powerful to account and to date there is no tangible public demonstration of this commitment when it comes to the CCP and Tibet.

Other countries have already placed sanctions on CCP officials. ATC is urging the Australian government to investigate CCP officials such as Zhang Hongbo and Wu Yingjie for their human rights abuses in Tibet, as well as others like Chen Quanguo for their role in designing and enforcing CCP policies to restrict religious freedoms in both Tibet and East Turkestan and consider them for Magnitsky sanctions.

This is important to stop future abuses.

-Structural change in China will only come if impunity is removed.

Change in the behaviour of Chinese officials is dependent on countries taking some responsibility for human rights in Tibet and refusing to enable further violations via their inaction.

End the Cultural Genocide in Tibet

China's colonial occupation of Tibet has entered an alarming new phase, leaving Tibet's unique cultural identity, and future, hanging in the balance. Reminiscent of Australia's Stolen Generations, nearly one million children — as young as four — have been reportedly separated from their families and forced into a vast network of Chinese boarding schools and pre-schools, which UN rights experts have warned is an effort to assimilate Tibetans into the majority Han culture. Tibetans call it a "cultural genocide".

As a country grappling with the legacy of a similar policy against Indigenous peoples, it is incumbent upon Australia to ensure that it is not repeated in Tibet in the 21st century.

- ATC will campaign to pressure the Australian Government to lead efforts to stop this cultural genocide.
- ATC will lobby the Australian Government to speak up at the UN and push for investigations and unfettered access to Tibet, taking leadership on this issue and working with like-minded governments at bilateral and multilateral levels to pressure China to end the cultural genocide in Tibet and the policy of forced separation of Tibetan children from families.

Recommendations:

We request that the Australian Government take leadership on this issue and work with like-minded governments on a bilateral and multilateral level to:

Call for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN Special Procedures to have immediate, meaningful, and unfettered access to all areas of Tibet, ensuring they are granted access to colonial boarding schools;

Call on the Government of China, and in particular on the National People's Congress Standing Committee of China - to uphold and enforce the current constitutional and statutory protections for Tibetan language promotion and-

-preservation and to condemn any effort to erode laws protecting the use of minority languages in the education context;

Impose targeted sanctions on Chinese officials, including the Provincial Party Secretaries and heads of government bodies overseeing the colonial boarding school system, under the U.S. Global Magnitsky Act, the E.U. Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime, and other human rights sanctions regimes in place in Canada, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere, and review the use of other punitive measures available.

Protecting the future succession of the Dalai Lama

Controlling the Dalai Lama is central to China's colonial project of 'sinicising' Tibetan Buddhism. The selection of the next Dalai Lama will be the next major flashpoint between Tibet and China.

A primary hindrance to the CCP's legitimacy is the unwavering loyalty of Tibetans towards their spiritual leader, despite relentless attempts to undermine the Dalai Lama's influence among Tibetans in Tibet and exile over the seven decades of China's occupation of Tibet.

ATC's campaign to protect the future succession of the Dalai Lama centres around three core recommendations for the Australian Government:

- Magnitsky Sanctions for CCP officials responsible for the policy and the implementation of policy that restricts Tibetan religious freedoms.
- An Australian Government foreign policy statement outlining that:

“Australia will oppose any effort by the Government of the People’s Republic of China to select or appoint Tibetan Buddhist religious leaders, including any future Dalai Lama. Furthermore, the Australian Government commits to recognising that the selection of Tibetan Buddhist leaders is to be determined by the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Buddhist Community, in accordance with the Tibetan Buddhist practices and traditions, without interference from the Chinese Government and in accordance with international human rights law”.

Enabling unfettered access to Tibet

China has succeeded in closing Tibet off to the world since the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic games and the Tibetan uprisings that followed. It is important-

-for the world to demand access to Tibet to be able to investigate and verify claims of human rights abuses, to strive for greater access and transparency for Tibet.

ATC has been calling for a “reciprocal access to Tibet’ bill similar in style to the USA Reciprocal Access to Tibet bill which monitors the granting (or rejection) of visa applications and permits to travel to Tibet, as well as produces an annual report about human rights in Tibet.

ATC believes that an Australian Parliamentary fact-finding mission to Tibet, as well as UN investigations and fact-finding mission to Tibet will assist to open Tibet up to the world.

We are calling on the Australian Government to support UN investigations into China’s colonial boarding schools and restrictions on religious freedom in Tibet. ATC also encourages media, diplomats as well as Tibetan Australians and ordinary Australians to travel to Tibet on fact-finding missions to ensure that there is no cloak of anonymity for those Chinese Communist Party officials responsible for human rights violations in Tibet, therefore removing their impunity.

- ATC will encourage Australian Parliamentarians to apply for visas-

-to China and permits to Tibet with the expressed intention to undertake a fact-finding mission into Chinese-run boarding schools for Tibetan children.

- ATC will gather personal stories from Tibetan-Australians who have sought to travel back to Tibet to visit family or undertake religious pilgrimage and have been denied visas and permits.
- ATC will continue to lobby for Australian Parliamentarians to put forward and pass 'Reciprocal Access to Tibet' legislation.

Trade dialogue needs to include human rights accountability

ATC believes that the Australian Parliament needs to establish a mechanism to keep abreast of the human rights abuses and threats to the people of Tibet, given that the issues are so numerous and compounding.

ATC is proposing that the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence hold an annual one-day hearing on Tibet to ensure the Australian Government is entirely aware of human rights abuses in Tibet and has accountability to act to protect Tibetans from human rights abuses.

Australia should consider a strong single mechanism for a multi-faceted issue.

A solution to the number and scope of the issues facing Tibet has been shown by the Government of the United States of America in the Tibet Policy and Support Act is an umbrella legislation, bringing together, into one law, various measures to support the human rights of Tibetans. The USA already has a Tibet Policy and Support Act, an act that makes it official US policy that the Dalai Lama's succession is a strictly religious issue that only he and his followers can decide on.

With the resumption of trade relations between Australia and China, the Australian government needs to do more to ensure that the very real and urgent human rights issues in Tibet have an official avenue to be recognized and acted on by the Australian Government.

Australian values need to be respected and Australians are supportive of Tibetans and their struggle. Australian values must not be traded away with the resumption of dialogue between Australia and China.

Recommendations:

A committee such as the JSCFADT should be responsible for regular human rights hearings on Tibet to ensure our resumption of trade relations with-

-China will not be at the expense of the human rights of Tibetans.

ATC believes that an Australian Tibet Policy and Support Act, would bringing the numerous issues facing Tibet under a single mechanism, would give Australia's Tibet policy greater efficiency and make a stronger statement about Australia's stance against human rights abuse and authoritarianism, and ensure that Tibet's numerous human rights abuses facing Tibetans are not forgotten or compromised over the resumption of trade dialogue.



Highlights of Australia Tibet Council's campaign work of the past year have included:

Australian Parliamentary delegation to Dharamsala

In partnership with the Tibet Information Office, ATC assisted to take Susan Templeman MP, Sharon Claydon MP, Dr Sophie Scamps MP and Senator Janet Rice to Dharamsala in April 2023. The delegation met with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Sikyong Penpa Tsering, the CTA, *Kashag*, Speakers of the house and Kalon Norzin Dolma and of course Tibetan Civil society and NGOs.



Australian All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet (AAPGT)

ATC coordinated with the Parliamentary Co-Chairs of the AAPGT, Susan Templeman MP, Senator Dean Smith and Senator Janet Rice, on events in Parliament. We also provided briefings and information for their advocacy which includes speaking out about Tibet in the Australian House of Representatives and the Senate. The AAPGT also receives important visitors to Australia such as Kalon Norzin Dolma, a minister from The Tibetan Central Administration (formerly known as the Tibetan Government in Exile), who visited Australia in November 2023. In 2023, twenty-five MPs and Senators regularly attended AAPGT meetings and events.



Tibet Lobby Day

Tibet Lobby Day is now an annual event for Australia Tibet Council in partnership with the Tibetan Community Associations of Australia. Tibet Lobby Day enables Australian Tibetans to directly lobby Australian Parliamentarians on our core advocacy issues. ATC trained Tibetan delegates from Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, and Brisbane who travelled to Canberra in September 2023 and represented Tibet to 25 MPs and Senators, including Shadow Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Birmingham, Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister Tim Watts and Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong.



Meeting directly with Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong

For the past year we have been in direct dialogue with the Foreign Minister and her office to raise Tibet and press for Australia to do more in meetings with China and international forums. In 2023, we managed to have three meetings with the Foreign Minister, including during Tibet Lobby Day to lobby her directly on the matters of greatest importance to Tibet.



Visit to Australia of Sikyong Penpa Tsering

This was a pivotal moment in 2023 in which ATC worked with the Tibet Office in Australia to ensure that the Sikyong's visit received the attention it deserves. The Sikyong made an impact in Australia, meeting with Australian parliamentarians, and witnessing a historic "Matter of Public Importance Debate" in the Australian Senate where nine Australian Senators spoke directly to the issues of religious freedom, His Holiness the Dalai Lama's future reincarnation, Tibet's stolen children and forced labour in Tibet and urged the Australian Government to do more.

The Sikyong also achieved front page news headlines in our newspapers, briefed important parliamentary groups such as the Joint Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT) and gave an hour-long National Press Club address on Australia's national broadcaster, the ABC, raising Tibet once again into the consciousness of Australians.



Briefing the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade on their Inquiry into the Rights of Women and Children

Australia Tibet Council worked with Tibet Action Network on a submission to the Inquiry into the rights of Women and Children about the separation of one million Tibetan children from their families. Dr Zoë Bedford was joined by Dr Gyal Lo and Lhadon Tethong from the Tibet Action Institute to give evidence to the inquiry.

International Campaign Coordination

As a small NGO — which also is also the largest Tibet support group in Australia — collaboration is an essential part of our organisation. Collaboration amplifies our work and strengthens the movement in Australia. ATC regularly collaborates across Australia with the Tibet Information Office in Canberra, Tibetan Community organisations, and increasingly the Tibetan Voluntary Tibet Advocacy Group (V-TAG).

ATC also works with the ‘cross-movement’ groups also impacted by China’s human rights abuses — Uyghurs, Hong Kongers, Chinese Democracy activists in Australia — as we can see that our movement is stronger together. This involves finding unifying campaigns,-

-such as the push to see CCP officials sanctioned under Australia’s Magnitsky Sanction laws.

Additionally, Australia Tibet Council works in collaboration with Tibet Support Groups internationally, such as International Campaign for Tibet in the USA, Free Tibet in the UK, Students for a Free Tibet in India, and Tibet Action Institute in the US.

Primarily this collaboration occurs through online forums, however, in 2023 ATCs Executive Officer Dr Zoë Bedford and Digital Campaigner Sonam Gyeltshen were joined by ATC board members, Tenzin Lobsang Khangsar and Yama Choezom, at the Tibet Network Asia and Australasia Regional Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, which brought together Tibet campaigners from India, Taiwan, Japan, the UK, and the USA.

Laying the groundwork for Australia to raise Tibet in the UN’s 2024 review of human rights in China

With the UN’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of human rights in China scheduled for January 2024, ATC facilitated political meetings and media for the November visit by Kalon Norzin Dolma, a minister from The Tibetan Central Administration (formerly known as the Tibetan Government in Exile),-

-with the aim of ensuring that Australia would speak out strongly for Tibet in the UPR peer-review process. Our fellow Tibet Support Groups around the world were working with their own countries to get results for Tibet across Europe, in the UK and in the USA and Canada.



Governance

The Snowlion Certificate of Appreciation and the Damien Lovelock Award for Meritorious Service were created with the aim of recognising members who have made significant contributions over the years.

Snowlion Certificate of Appreciation

The Snowlion Certificate of Appreciation is for financial members of ATC who have assisted ATC in an important way. Eligibility criteria for the CA award includes major contributions as a volunteer, long-time financial membership of ATC and significant success in fundraising for ATC.

Damien Lovelock Award for Meritorious Service

The Damien Lovelock Award for Meritorious Service is for supporters and financial members who have made an extraordinary contribution to ATC's work. Eligibility criteria for the CMS award will include a significant contribution, including financial contribution, to the success of ATC's campaigns and organisational capacity.

Elaine Berndt: Snowlion Certificate of Appreciation

Elaine is a long time supporter of the Tibetan cause, attending marches and protests over the past 20 years, as well as being a member of ATC. Elaine has committed significant time and resources to learning first hand about the situation facing Tibetans by being a two-time participant of ATC's Little Tibet Tour to Dharamsala with her first trip in 2017 and her second in 2023.

Elaine has also been instrumental in the planning and organising necessary to revive the birthday celebrations for His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Brisbane. The first renewed Dalai Lama birthday fundraising event will take place in July 2024.

Chris Teasdale: Damien Lovelock Award

Chris has been involved in ATC for over a decade showing his commitment to Tibet and ATC through several years of part-time work in the national office and many years of dedicated volunteering behind the scenes.



In recent years, Chris has helped bring ATC's campaigns and content to life through his graphic design skills. The eye-catching reports, banners, t-shirts, and posters that we see out in the public realm have lifted ATC's visual presence and professionalised ATC's look and branding. ATC is known for punching above its weight, and we couldn't do it without people like Chris who work so hard in the background.

ATC Volunteers

We would like to take this opportunity to call out for volunteers, as ATC continues to rebuild our volunteer engagement after the pandemic. ATC particularly needs assistance when it comes time for large mail outs, in events and fundraising and finance. Importantly the ATC Board is looking for a Treasurer. Please email tibet.council@atc.org.au if you would like to volunteer.

ATC's Directors

Board resignations and appointments during 2023

In 2023, ATC directors Tenzin Lobsang Khangsar and Katie Camarena were appointed as Co-chairs, under clause 41.2 of ATC's constitution.

The Board, pursuant to clause 40.5 of ATC's Constitution, appointed Yama Choezom as a director to fill a casual vacancy on the Board, commencing in May, 2023.

Tenzin Dolmey resigned from ATC's board in April 2023 to move overseas. Tenzin had been a valuable board member since her appointment to fill a casual vacancy on the Board in December 2020. While on the board she helped to organise campaigns, lobbied with state and federal parliamentarians on ATC Campaigns and made a significant impact to the work of ATC. We thank Tenzin for her contributions during her time as a board member.

Board Members



Tenzin Lobsang Khangsar joined the Board in June 2020 and was elected Co-chair in December 2020. He currently works as an interpreter with Home Affairs (Immigration), alongside being a home loan consultant at Star Lending Pvt. Ltd. and bi-cultural worker at Co-health.

He has served as both the vice-president (2013-2015) and president (2017-2019) of the Tibetan Community of Victoria. Lobsang completed his schooling at the Tibetan Children's Village, Ladakh and Dharamsala, India. He has a Masters in Economics from M.S. University and Master in Business (SAP) from Victoria University, Australia.



Katie Camarena has been a volunteer with Australia Tibet Council since 2000 and worked in the national office between 2003 and 2007. In 2005, Katie helped organise and lead the first Little Tibet Tour (Trek for Tibet). She joined the Board in 2014 and was elected as Co-chair in Dec 2020.

Katie holds a Bachelor of International Studies from the University of New South Wales and worked in international aid and development for many years. Katie specialises in digital communications and now works as a digital journalist and campaigner in the union movement.



Sonam Paljor recommenced his position as Board member in 2021 after a leave of absence. He works with the NSW Public Sector. Before moving to Australia, he had worked at the Department of Health in the 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.



Yujian was born and raised in Mainland China. He has a Bachelor degree in Secondary Education and has worked in both government and non-government schools across Queensland and Sydney. Since coming to Australia in 2014, Yujian has continued to be a student of Tibetan Buddhism, engaging extensively with Buddhist centres associated with 'the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition' (FPMT) in various countries.

At the beginning of 2017, Yujian attended his first in person teaching in Bodhgaya, India with His Holiness the Dalai Lama (HHDL). He has been an adherent follower of HHDL and a supporter of the Free Tibet movement. He joined the Board via election at the ATC AGM in June 2022.



Karen Collier is an interdisciplinary communications specialist and health professional currently working in the trauma field with a passion for working with underserved communities. She holds a Masters of Peace and Conflict studies from the University of Sydney, and most recently served as head of communications within Australia's peak body providing psychosocial support and specialist services to refugee torture and trauma survivors from over 170 countries of origin.

Karen's connection with the Tibetan community dates back to the early 2000's. Since 2004 she has provided support in various capacities to the Tibet Information Office Australia and the Tibetan Community of NSW. Inspired by the Dalai Lama's visionary dialogues between Tibetan Buddhism and Western Science, Karen is currently undertaking postgraduate studies in Psychotherapy, with special interest in the wisdom traditions of ancient civilizations and mind-body practices for the treatment of traumatic stress. As a human rights defender, she is firmly committed to increasing trauma literacy in the global media and supporting the Tibetan people to realise their right to self-determination.



Professor Jonathan Cebon was a foundation executive member of ATC in 1990. During ATC's early years he was a contributor to and editor of ATC News, a member of the organising committee for the Dalai Lama's 1991 Australian visit, and actively participated in the lobbying activities of ATC including seeking the humanitarian immigration intake of Tibetans into Australia, and hosting the Australian visits of Kalon Tash Wangdi and Representative Pema Gyalpo, and Lhasang Tsering of Tibetan Youth Congress.

He participated in the meeting between the 10th Panchen Lama and community members in Melbourne in 1986, and was previously a medical officer at Delek Hospital in Dharamsala and Sonam Ling Tibetan Refugee Settlement in Leh, Ladakh



Yama Choezom was born in Tibet and grew up in India, attending the Tibetan Children's Village School. She has a BA, LLB from India and has worked at a Tibetan Law firm in India as an Associate. Yama moved to Australia in 2017 to complete a Master of Laws (LLM) at the University of Melbourne. She is an admitted solicitor and currently practising as a litigation lawyer at the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. Yama previously worked in private practice in the areas of immigration, construction and not-for-profit law in boutique to top-tier law firms in Sydney.

ATC Staff



Dr Zoë Bedford is ATC's Executive Officer. She has been involved with ATC since 1999 when she volunteered at an event. Since that time she worked with ATC as a campaigner and also on the Board as a director and chairperson. Born and raised in Sydney, Australia, Zoë has lived and worked overseas in the Philippines and Thailand.

She was an aid worker for many years, supporting projects in the Pacific and working with Burmese refugees on the Thai-Burma border on diverse projects. Zoë has a Doctor of Social Sciences in Peace and Conflict studies from the University of Sydney as well as a Master in International Social Development from the University of NSW and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Newcastle University.



Sonam Gyeltshen joined ATC in February 2022 as ATC's Digital Campaigner. Sonam was born and raised in a Tibetan settlement in Bhutan and has worked in Non-Profit Organisations and various multi-media roles. Sonam has a Bachelor's degree in Media Studies and English literature and an Advanced Diploma in Telecommunications.

Company Secretary



Cameron Rowland is a qualified secondary school teacher who has worked in both government and non-government schools across Sydney and Melbourne. He has been a passionate and avid supporter of the Tibetan cause, supporting many newly arrived Tibetan students in their secondary schooling context and volunteering to help many young primary school Tibetans with reading. Born and raised in Sydney, Cameron has previously run his own tutoring business. He has a Bachelor of Secondary Education/Arts and Humanities and a Master of Education Research degree from the University of Sydney. He now works as an English teacher in Melbourne and continues to dedicate his time helping young Tibetans integrate into society through volunteer tutoring.

Fundraising & financial reports

Summary of Income and Expenditure

Australian Tibet Council Limited A.B.N 15 088 312 529

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income			
Appeals		42,924	27,999
Donations and Bequests		1,443	2,672
Interest		-	14
Events Income		29,372	-
Membership Fees		77,972	76,740
Grants		2600	33,464
Raffles		24,540	29,857
Auction revenue		-	-
Merchandise		10,117	13,076
Government COVID stimulus		-	-
Total Trading and Other Income		188,968	183,822
Expenses			
Advocacy Expenses		26,047	21,146
Audit Review Fee		1,000	1,000
Bank Fees and Charges		1,905	2,031
Communications		2,347	2,804
Internet		3,460	2,163
Fundraising & Events Expenses		11,129	9,495
Merchandise Expenses		7,254	1,090
Payroll Expenses		130,188	141,405
Operational & Administration expenses		8,564	9,151
GU CHU Contracts		25,018	-
Total expenses		216,912	190,285
Net Profit / (Loss) Before Income Tax		(27,944)	(6,463)
Income Tax Expenses	1©	-	-
Net Profit / (Loss) after Income Tax		(27,944)	(6,463)
Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss)		(27,944)	(6,463)

Summary of Income and Expenditure

Australian Tibet Council Limited A.B.N 15 088 312 529

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		23,545	36,902
Receivable		-	10,100
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>23,545</u>	<u>47,002</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment		-	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>23,545</u>	<u>47,002</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables		3,096	3,620
Current tax liabilities		4,828	-
Provisions		15,378	10,226
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>23,302</u>	<u>18,815</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>243</u>	<u>28,187</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Accumulated Profits		243	28,187
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>243</u>	<u>28,187</u>

Auditor's report

Australian Tibet Council Limited A.B.N 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 2023, 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 2023 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.

Auditor's report

Australian Tibet Council Limited A.B.N 15 088 312 529

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

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, except for 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 2023 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



Aliston Joseph
Registered Company Auditor 424462
32 Wigram Street
Harris Park NSW 2150

Dated this 20 day of June 2024

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.

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.

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.

Leave a bequest



Including a gift in your Will to the 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 loved ones, 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.

Please email tibet.council@atc.org.au for a Bequest information pack.

Join ATC's Little Tibet Tour

This 12-day [Little Tibet Tour](#), allows you to experience all this and more. From the teeming streets of Delhi, you will travel north to the Himalayan foothills. Spending 11 days in the spiritual and political capital of Tibet in exile, you will immerse yourself in all facets of Tibetan culture and learn firsthand about the current plight of the Tibetan people and their inspiring resilience.

Key highlights include meeting Tibetans and hearing their personal stories, experiencing the delights of Tibetan and Indian cuisines, hiking in the mountains, visiting Tibetan NGOs, political institutions and cultural centres and learning about all things Tibet. And also taking time out for yourself to meditate, read, spend time in nature and make meaningful friendships.

Specially designed and led by Australia Tibet Council, [the Little Tibet Tour](#) is a unique opportunity to experience the Tibetan world with a group of travellers from Australia and worldwide, united by their shared passion and love for Tibet.



Thank you



Tibetan Opera performance by the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA) for the Little Tibet Tour