





Tired of Secret Santa at your office Christmas party?

Why not put that money towards something meaningful?

Did you know that Australians spend around \$1 billion on unwanted and unused Christmas presents? So instead of giving your work colleague another boring gift certificate, why not put it towards Act for Peace's Christmas Bowl appeal?

For example, through your gifts:

-  can provide life-saving medicine for a child in Gaza
-  can clear mines and bombs from 100m² of land in places like Iraq, Somalia and Sudan, so that families can begin to rebuild
-  can help build a home for a family whose house was destroyed by floods in Pakistan
-  can provide a water well pump for an entire Ethiopian community suffering from the worst drought seen in the Horn of Africa in 60 years

Don't waste Christmas. Share it.

How can our organisation share Christmas?

It's simple. Before your staff Christmas party this year:

1. Email around a link to this PDF inviting your colleagues to read Abdul's story and find out more about Act for Peace's Christmas Bowl.
2. Hand out the Christmas Bowl gift envelopes and encourage your team to bring in a donation for the Christmas Bowl appeal rather than exchanging presents.
3. At your Christmas party or dinner, select a large bowl and place it in the centre of the table.
4. Pass the bowl around the table, inviting your guests to give what they would have spent on gifts for their colleagues and drop their gift envelope in the 'Christmas Bowl'.
5. Then collect the envelopes and send back to Act for Peace. For cash gifts, please deposit them using the Remittance Form provided at your local ANZ bank. All gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Act for Peace will post out receipts to all employees that have included their details on the envelope.

To order more Christmas Bowl envelopes or if you have any questions about how your organisation can get more involved, please contact your local Development Officer today. Alternatively, you can ring us on **1800 025 101** or email christmasbowl@ncca.org.au.

Do you want to get more involved?

If your organisation isn't having a Christmas party this year or wants other ways to get involved here are some options:

- ✓ **Encourage your organisation to clear an area of the office** – did you know for every \$50 your organisation raises, we can clear 100m² of land of unexploded cluster bombs in some of the most dangerous countries in the world? Then this land can be used for farming or to rebuild homes and schools.
- ✓ Check out our **Gifts for Peace** at www.giftsforpeace.org.au. These colourful hanging cards can be placed on your organisation's Christmas tree or given to family and friends. For as little as \$20 you can provide life-saving medicine for a child.



Free Call: 1800 025 101 www.actforpeace.org.au

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia and a member of the global ACT Alliance. ABN 64 493 941 795

The very first Christmas Bowl

On Christmas Day in 1949, the Reverend Frank Byatt of Victoria placed an empty bowl on the table during Christmas dinner. He asked everyone sitting at the table with him to think about their good fortune and their safe, happy lives. Then he asked them to think about those around the world who were not safe and had to go without. He invited everyone to put in the bowl what they thought their Christmas dinner had cost to raise money for Eastern European refugees displaced from their homes due to World War II. Since that day, his legacy lives on through the Christmas Bowl, raising more than \$2.3 million each year to help rebuild lives worldwide.

Abdul's story

Abdul was born and raised in a small village in northern Iraq called Bawa. Abdul and his family fled Bawa when the 2003 Iraq war engulfed their village. They returned years later in hope of rebuilding their lives, only to discover that the fields they had once tilled were infested with cluster bombs.

Abdul was out playing in a field with his friends when he came across a small metallic object glinting in the sunlight. Just 11 years old, Abdul had never seen anything like it.

Perhaps he thought it was a toy – after all, that's what these unexploded bombs can look like to a child's innocent eyes. We will never know exactly why Abdul picked it up – but we do know that the act was fateful, and that it ended his life in an instant. Sadly, Abdul's story is not uncommon.

Your support will help stop unnecessary deaths

With help from our kind supporters, our local partners in Iraq have cleared more than 1.5 million landmines, bombs and items of ammunition allowing communities to return to their land and begin to rebuild.

They also provided lessons in bomb recognition to safeguard children and villagers from the tragic fate of Abdul. And though nothing can bring Abdul back, his family and community can begin to move on, planting the seeds not only for wheat and vegetables, but for a whole new chapter of peace, hope and prosperity.

About Act for Peace

The Christmas Bowl is a program of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Act for Peace empowers war-torn communities to reduce poverty, protect refugees and prevent further conflict. Our project partners are currently assisting more than one million people in many of the world's worst conflict-affected areas, including Sudan, Somalia, Zimbabwe, the Middle East, Burma and Sri Lanka.

Act for Peace is a member of the global ACT Alliance which works in more than 140 countries worldwide, enabling us to respond immediately and effectively to emergency situations as they occur.



THIS BOMB KILLS CHILDREN

For more information, posters and gift envelopes please contact your local Act for Peace Development Officer or ring us today on 1800 025 101. You can also email us at christmasbowl@ncca.org.au. Thank you for your kind support!

Free Call: 1800 025 101 www.actforpeace.org.au

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia and a member of the global ACT Alliance. ABN 64 493 941 795

act for peace
reduce poverty | protect refugees
prevent conflicts | empower communities