

# Atisha



# Centre



**STRATEGIC  
SUMMARY**

**2017 - 2033**

**'A Land for Completing the Human Potential'**

*Lama Zopa Rinpoche*

# OUR PURPOSE WHAT WE PROVIDE

ATISHA CENTRE is dedicated to



- The transmission of Tibetan Buddhism through the promotion of study and dissemination of Buddhist teachings, emphasising the teachings of the Gelug lineage of Tibetan Buddhism;
- “Atisha Centre’s mission is to preserve the Mahayana Buddhist tradition by maintaining teaching and retreat facilities that support Mahayana practitioners in study, contemplation and meditation.
- We welcome people of all backgrounds and faiths to develop their natural wisdom and compassion through essential education and service.”
- Maintaining at all times an affiliation with **FPMT Inc.**, a Californian non-profit, religious corporation representing an international group of organisations and individuals devoted to the transmission of the Mahayana Buddhist tradition and values worldwide through teaching, meditation and community service, and based upon the Buddhist tradition of Lama Tsong Khapa.



# Our Centre in 2033

Atisha Buddhist Education Centre is a place of peace and tranquility.

We are an FPMT Dharma Centre with a large of community consisting of staff, volunteers, members and spiritual friends.

His Holiness Dalai Lama and Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche are our spiritual leaders and we have a strong commitment to preserving the Mahayana tradition.

The Centre is a safe place of refuge where people of all ages and backgrounds can achieve the path to enlightenment. Students are provided with the tools for subduing afflictive minds and developing the good heart imbued with all that is realistic and gentle. The teachings inspire and encourage us to make the best use of our life and unique potential.

We are an independent, incorporated, charitable association operating under the guidance and support of the FPMT organisation. We partner strongly with the other resident organisations including the Great Stupa, Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery and Machig Labdron Nuns' Community.

We will continue to develop our Dharma teachings programme that is diverse and well considered. It includes spiritual courses, meditations and retreats and will continue to grow as facilities allow. The programme fully incorporates Mahayana traditional texts, Buddhist art, study programmes and relaxation methods. We also hire our facilities to other organisations that share similar values. We offer the teachings of the Dharma free of charge and maintain our financial viability through the generosity of donations, sponsorships, facilities hire and grants.

Our facilities support the Centre activities, including retreat accommodation for up to 50 people, self-contained units for longer term residents

and accommodation for up to ten exchange volunteers. We have a community room with a capacity for 100 people, a new separate toilet block with disabled access, and suitable support infrastructure which includes a kitchen, dining room, office space, guest reception and teacher accommodation. We have art studios with a regular group of dedicated artists.

Our Centre works seamlessly with the Great Stupa and others to maximize the benefits to members and visitors.

We have a large Dharma shop with extended hours to maximise access and our Wishfulfilling Jewel Café is a place where people can connect and relax over wholesome vegetarian food. We have a well-appointed library of Buddhist and other spiritual texts that our members can read and borrow.

We embrace modern technology where it can assist our mission with a strong online presence that helps to get our message out to the people who need it. We have a strong community profile and high awareness within our local and wider community of who we are and what we offer.

We maintain a stable and effective board that ensures that the Centre is run in a responsible and effective way and can sustainably achieve our mission. We consult regularly with our staff, volunteers, members, local community and all relevant stakeholders to ensure that we can best fulfill everyone's needs.



## Goals for 2017 - 2033

## Objectives for 2017 - 2033

### ***Programmes and Services***

To offer students who wish to engage in study and practice a wide range of Mahayana Dharma and essential education activities. We aim to engage the local and wider community through service and interfaith activities.

- Provide the SPC with support systems and staff for coordination of educational and spiritual programmes.
- Formulate an annual teaching programme of regular practices, retreats, special events and workshops
- Maintain comprehensive resources for the use of teaching programme participants.
- Create and dedicate holy objects in the grounds of the Centre.
- Register as a training organisation and deliver accredited courses

### ***Governance and Accountability***

Governance processes address both performance and accountability within a risk management framework, make a positive difference to the performance of the Centre, achieve best results for funding bodies and meet public expectations of openness, transparency and integrity.

- Review and document organisational structure.
- Maintain affiliation and compliance with FPMT.
- Ensure all Board members are sufficiently informed to confidently perform their roles.
- Ensure all Board positions remain filled.
- Ensure Rules of Association are up to date and understood by all Board members.
- Establish an efficient subcommittee structure.
- Establish governance-level policies and procedures that are sufficiently detailed and relevant, and address all areas of risk and Board accountability.
- Improve efficiency of Board meetings and ensure appropriate decision making processes.
- Develop and maintain a strong membership base.

### ***Marketing / Profile***

Community members seek to contribute or become involved in a variety of ways, partners and stakeholders benefit from creative linkages and opportunities and the organisation benefits from significant, sustainable gains in revenue.

- Appoint a volunteer to assist with publicity.
- Develop a larger membership program with level of membership based on service included and benefits.
- Ensure effective use of a range of publicity material.
- Develop a pool of regular champions and supporters.
- Identify media opportunities and establish regular media coverage.
- Broaden the use of online media as an effective communication tool.
- Raise and improve Atisha Centre's profile within the wider community.

## Goals for 2017 - 2033

## Objectives for 2017 - 2033

<p><b>Staffing / Human Resources</b></p> <p>Maintain an enjoyable and harmonious workplace while growing and strengthening staff skill and numbers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify management structure and identify all operational tasks and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Maintain a workplace culture compatible with FPMT principles.</li> <li>• Improve support and supervision for all senior staff.</li> <li>• Review and update all documentation related to employment of staff.</li> <li>• Ensure sufficient staff with appropriate skills and experience.</li> <li>• Establish clear statements of policy and practices for the ongoing management and administration of the Centre.</li> <li>• Progressively develop and maintain a diverse pool of skilled volunteers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Partnerships/Liaison</b></p> <p>Atisha Centre's positive liaison and harmonious cooperation with TSL Monastery, the Great Stupa and local and global communities promotes mutual benefit and achievement of common goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster mutual cooperation with the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion.</li> <li>• Clarify working relationship with Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery.</li> <li>• Maintain relationship with the Dja Dja Rung people.</li> <li>• Maintain close ties with Tara Institute, our sister centre in Victoria</li> <li>• Maintain a relationship with the Karen Buddhist group in Bendigo</li> <li>• Maintain our relationship with Bendigo volunteers and interfaith services in Bendigo</li> </ul>
<p><b>Financial Management</b></p> <p>Financial management processes are transparent, ethical, accurate, comply with all legislative requirements and ensure ongoing viability and optimum delivery of services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review financial management practices to ensure solvency, greater financial sustainability and manage financial risk.</li> <li>• Develop a clear fundraising strategy as a major responsibility.</li> <li>• Develop a grant application process to seek funding for services and programmes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Venues and Facilities</b></p> <p>Participants, staff and volunteers feel welcome and comfortable when attending the Centre, and are well resourced and supported in surroundings which are secure, environmentally sound, properly maintained and cater for all needs and abilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue fundraising with a view to developing new facilities.</li> <li>• Further the Atisha Centre Comprehensive Development Plan.</li> <li>• Oversee the implementation of financially viable renewable energy options.</li> <li>• Ensure sustainable practices are embedded into all service operations.</li> <li>• Continue improvements in appearance and accessibility within the grounds of the Centre.</li> <li>• Upgrade safety measures to manage potentially unsafe occurrences.</li> </ul>









**LEGEND**

**Proposed Buildings**

-  Nuns Accommodation (20m x 20m)  
12 Bedrooms, kitchen, laundry, library.  
Use and building envelope approved.  
(Atisha Comprehensive Development  
Plan 2007)
-  Staff Accommodation (8.5m x 15.5m and  
13.5m)\_5 Units
-  Zopa Ling: Community, facility &  
accommodation (20m x 10m)
-  Norbu Ling: Cafe, bookshop, office,  
accommodation (18m x 10m)
-  Extension to Dining/Kitchen  
(12m x 12m)
-  Toilets: 7 toilets incl. All Access  
(3.0m x 7.0m)

**Existing Buildings and Spaces**

-  Gumpa
-  Retreat Accommodation &  
Ablution block
-  Small Gompa & Meditation Room
-  Atisha Centre: Existing kitchen/dining,  
bookshop, office, and community  
outdoor space. Bookshop & office to  
be demolished at construction of  
Norbu Ling(B)
-  Existing walking paths
-  Tsa Tsa Shed: Art Studio (8mx4m)

**TP01 SITE LAYOUT PLAN**

**AMENDMENT C177, BENDIGO PLANNING SCHEME:**

**ATISHA CENTRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACDPO2**

**Atisha Buddhist Centre, 25 Sandhurst Town Road, Myers Flat**

# Thank You

*A*tisha Centre would like to express the deepest gratitude and appreciation to all its teachers, members, supporters, volunteers, friends and benefactors.

Your kindness helps provide the conditions needed to carry out Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche's great vision for the Centre and the FPMT organisation.

Our accomplishments are the direct result of your generosity and commitment to the Centre.

*M*ay we all rejoice together.





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