

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Justice Through Education and Empowerment



PUNYA FOUNDATION

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INTRODUCTION

Punya Foundation is a charity dedicated to promoting justice through education and empowerment. The Foundation is a Deductible Gift Recipient with the Australian Taxation Office, holds a 501 (c) (3) with the IRS in the United States, and a not-for-profit in Nepal, Canada, and Ethiopia.

Objectives

- ✦ To contribute to self-reliance and empowerment of blind, orphaned, poor, vulnerable, and underprivileged children through education.
- ✦ To institutionalise social justice and peace organising empowerment and psychosocial support programs to victims of social injustice, destitute, trauma, violence, widows, refugees, and migrant communities.
- ✦ To contribute and promote community collaboration through engagement, investment, partnership, career counselling and job-oriented trainings.
- ✦ To build and manage community garden, community centre, multipurpose hall, place of worship, retirement village and investment opportunities for education, community engagement, participation, and to practice and promote language, culture, spirituality, and religion and enrich Australian multicultural society.
- ✦ To promote health organising health advocacy, outreach clinics, and mobilise resources and extend emergency relief during natural disasters and calamities.

The target groups of the Foundation are people who need support to live a dignified life. The Foundation assists underprivileged and vulnerable children with their education. It focuses on welfare of women in fronts of social justice through mediation, empowerment, and adult education programs. Punya Foundation actively organises community activities and welfare geared programs.

FOUNDER'S REFLECTIONS: A YEAR OF PURPOSE AND PROGRESS 2025



Dr Lakshmi Prasad Dhakal
MBBS (TU), MD (UV),
FRACP, MPH

Dear donors, well-wishers, and volunteers,

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with deep gratitude for the strength, generosity, and unity of our community. Guided by a shared commitment to community wellbeing, justice, and cultural harmony, Punya Foundation has continued to move forward with purpose, achieving meaningful and lasting progress together.

I am especially proud of our advancement in culturally responsive health initiatives, including the successful securing of national cancer grants to support Nepali-speaking communities across Australia. These achievements reflect the trust placed in us and our collective resolve to address wellbeing with compassion, dignity, and care. A defining milestone this year has been the remarkable progress of the Mandir project. Securing land, advancing planning application, and raising over one million dollars through collective devotion represent an extraordinary step forward. The Mandir will stand as a lasting centre for spiritual wellbeing, cultural connection, and community resilience for generations to come.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless dedication of our volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and the steadfast support of our community. Your time, faith, and commitment continue to turn shared vision into reality.

As we look ahead, I warmly invite you to continue donating, collaborating, engaging and supporting our work. Together, we can deepen our impact, complete the Mandir, and build a stronger, more compassionate and an inclusive community.

EXCERPT FROM THE COUNTRY HEADS



Mr Kashi Adhikar Chief Executive Officer, Punya Foundation Australia



Mr Mohan Niroula President, Punya Foundation Nepal



Mr Shyam Ghimir President, Punya Foundation Canada



Mr Sudip Adhikari President, Punya Foundation USA

ANNUAL REPORT TEAM



Bhuwani Dhakal

Bhuwani Dhakal has been a committed volunteer in the IT sector at Punya Foundation for over five years, contributing to various projects that aim to enhance the organization's content and technological infrastructure. For the 2024 report, he customised a template (designed by a Nepali government official who has chosen to remain anonymous) to ensure the presentation was both streamlined and professional.

Professionally, Bhuwani is a Development Engineer with the Queensland Government. His work focuses on optimizing and delivering critical local government infrastructure, where he leverages his technical expertise to drive innovation and improve the delivery of services to the community.



Nawal Khatiwoda

Nawal is a Sydney-based artist and registered nurse whose creative practice is grounded in healing through art. With a rare ability to blend compassion and creativity, he has become a unique voice in exploring wellbeing and inner balance.

In this work, Nawal uses vibrant, luminous colour to portray spirituality through the image of a Hindu temple. The flowing, melting forms and rich hues evoke the divine essence of Hinduism, inviting a personal connection to the spiritual and suggesting that spirituality reaches beyond the self into the wider universe.

The intricate layering of colour mirrors life's journey—full of purpose, hope, and possibility. Punya Foundation gratefully acknowledges Nawal's generosity in sharing his art with us each year, enriching our community with beauty and inspiration.



Deoki Dhakal

Deoki is a health professional and a quiet pillar of support for the Punya Foundation behind the scenes. For the 2025 Annual Report, she generously volunteered her time, assisting with drafting and coordination. She often describes her contribution as “a pleasure to assist my husband when he is busy and struggling to meet deadlines.”

Deoki holds a B.Sc. in Nursing, M.Sc. in Botany, and PSI in Psychology. Her professional experience spans three countries: she has worked as a lecturer in Nepal, as a psychiatric nurse in the Netherlands, and currently in Australia as a coordinator with Gateway Health, working in programs focused on drug and alcohol services.

In addition to her professional commitments and volunteering for the Foundation, Deoki engages in small local initiatives in Northeast Victoria contributing in numerous practical ways with dedication, care, and consistency.

SYNOPSIS OF KEY ACTIVITIES & DIRECTION FOR 2026

4.1. Transition of scholarship programs: Punya Foundation continues to support underprivileged children in Nepal through to Year 10. The Orphan Scholarship Project in Nepal has concluded, with ongoing support for Dalit and disadvantaged students. The Blind Student Education Program concludes this year, with five blind female students completing graduation-level education. A new scholarship initiative for the Badi community in Karnali, Nepal, launched by Punya Foundation USA, reflects a shift toward deeper impact in highly disadvantaged regions. Overall, more than 1,000 students have completed Year 10, improving literacy and opportunities in remote communities.

4.2. Mandir and a community hub in Adelaide: Responding to growing community demand in South Australia, groundwork began in 2024 to build a Mandir and community centre in Munno Para Downs. One hectare of land has been secured, making this a major priority for 2026 and beyond, driven collectively by the community.

4.3. Digital literacy and technology empowerment: The computer training program for Bhutanese refugees and host communities in Eastern Nepal, funded by Punya Foundation USA, is planned for handover to the Bhutanese Refugee Women Forum, with its future continuation under review.

4.4. Cultural and spiritual programs: Annual events such as Panchami Puja, Durga Puja, Krishna Janmashtami, and Maha Yagya were held, strengthening cultural identity, community cohesion, and connections with the wider Australian community, while also supporting fundraising.

4.5. Community engagement and environmental action: Key activities included park clean-ups, World Refugee Day participation, and partnerships with councils and community groups. In 2026, the Foundation aims to further strengthen its place-based community engagement.

4.6. Strategic review and organisational alignment: The Foundation is reviewing its programs to ensure mission alignment and long-term sustainability, with a focus in 2026 on scaling high-impact initiatives, emphasis on Mandir project and phasing out less effective ones.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES: CELEBRATING PAST AND EMBRACING THE FUTURE

With gratitude, the Foundation acknowledges the exemplary contributions of its past leaders whose vision and stewardship established the Foundation for sustainable growth. Their legacy continues to inspire and guide future progress. We honour Mr Tilchand Sapkota, who served as CEO for over a decade, bringing stability and guiding the Foundation to remarkable heights. Our sincere thanks also go to Mr Khagendra Khatiwada, Director of Publicity and Language, and Mr Krishna Luitel, Coordinator, for their efforts and invaluable contributions. Their legacy forms the strong foundation for the next chapter of our growth.

The incoming leadership team brings renewed energy and strategic vision. We welcomed our new leadership team: Mr Kashi Adhikari, CEO; Mr Sanman Kafley, Director of Operations; Mr Hari Adhikari, Director of Programs; Mr JN Bhandari, Director of Administration; Mr Mohan Bhattarai, Director of Community Engagement; and coordinators Mr Kamal Bajgai and Mr Om Guragai. Their energy, vision, and dedication promise to propel Punya Foundation to even greater impact, ensuring that every program and initiative touches lives meaningfully. We also extend our appreciation to our continuing directors, Pundit Santiram Upadhaya Dhakal, Director of Culture and Spirituality and Mr Hari Pohkrel, Director of Finance whose wisdom and guidance continue to light our path.

With this dynamic team of committed new leaders, Punya Foundation is poised to innovate, inspire, and create lasting change building brighter futures and stronger communities, together. The collaboration remains resilient, innovative, and deeply connected to the communities it serves.



EDUCATION

6.1. Investing in hope: scholarship support for Baadi students in Karnali



In May 2025, Punya Foundation USA fulfilled its long-standing commitment by disbursing NPR 402,000 (3,700 USD, eq 5,523.96 AUD) to Baadi Sarokar Manch, supporting nine children from the socially marginalised Baadi community in the Karnali province of Nepal. The purpose of this initiative is to remove barriers to education for some of Nepal's most vulnerable primary school students by providing scholarships that cover essentials like school fees, food, shelter, and learning materials.

This program is led by Mr. Buddha Mani Dhakal (Kentucky, USA), who played a key role in advocating for and coordinating the scholarship. Through collaboration with Baadi Sarokar Manch, Punya Foundation ensures local delivery and accountability. The project epitomises the Foundation's dedication to justice through education and long-term empowerment of marginalised communities.

6.2. Scholarship support for Dalit students in Surkhet, Nepal



Punya Foundation supported a targeted scholarship program for seven primary school students from the Dalit community in Surkhet District, Nepal, implemented in partnership with the Dalit Welfare Organisation (DWO). The program addressed key financial barriers faced by poor and marginalised families by covering school necessities like uniforms, stationery, and essential learning materials.

By ensuring uninterrupted access to education at the primary level, the initiative helped reduce the risk of school dropout and strengthened children's opportunities for learning and development. This support reflects Punya Foundation's commitment to social justice, inclusion, and breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty through education.

6.3. Empowering blind and visually impaired women: a journey of inclusion, education, and achievement.



For the past four years, Punya Foundation has partnered with the Blind Women Association Nepal (BWAN) to break barriers to higher education for blind and visually impaired women facing poverty and exclusion. Supported by the Punya Foundation Queensland Team, led by Mr Indra Rizal, this scholarship initiative has transformed aspirations into opportunity. Through sustained financial support, selected students

were able to pursue bachelor-level studies with dignity and confidence. This year marks a moment of deep pride as these young women successfully complete their bachelor’ education. This is an extraordinary achievement reflecting resilience, determination, and belief in their potential.

Punya Foundation sincerely thanks its donors and supporters for making this journey possible. We invite the community to watch the project videos on our site and continue supporting similar initiatives that advance inclusion, independence, and equal access to education.

6.4. Bridging past and present: Punya Foundation reconnects with Kakuma Refugee Camp.

In July 2025, Punya Foundation reaffirmed its long-term commitment to social justice and education through a reflective initiative titled “Remembering Kakuma Refugee Camp and Reconnecting with Kenya.” First established in 2012, the Foundation’s engagement with Kakuma has centred on supporting refugees’ education, particularly girls and women, through scholarships and life-skills programs.



Dr Lakshmi Prasad Dhakal was appraised of its past projects and presented the narrative of the current need. Coinciding with Dr Dhakal's professional's endeavour, the purpose of this visit is both commemorative and forward-looking to honour the resilience of Kakuma's refugee community, acknowledge past partnerships, and explore renewed opportunities for collaboration. Through personal stories and archival reflection, the project highlights the impact of Punya Foundation's earlier work in building solidarity and access to learning.

6.5. Scholarship Program in Palungtar, Gorkha

Since 2022, Punya Foundation has been working in partnership with the Bimala-Binishma Panta Foundation to support the education of economically disadvantaged and at-risk children in Nepal's Gorkha district. The Bimala-Binishma Panta Foundation was established through the generosity of South Australia-based philanthropist Mr Prakash Jung Panta.

Through this joint initiative, selected students receive comprehensive educational assistance, including coverage of school tuition fees, essential learning materials such as notebooks, school bags, pens and pencils, as well as required school uniforms. In 2025, the program extended its support to students across 13 schools located in Palungtar municipality of Gorkha district.

The scholarship program is delivered on the ground by a dedicated team of volunteers based in Nepal under Mr Panta's leadership, while Punya Foundation Nepal provides ongoing oversight and monitoring to ensure transparency and effectiveness. We sincerely appreciate Mr Panta's continued partnership and commitment, which has made a meaningful difference in expanding educational opportunities for children from underprivileged backgrounds in Nepal.



EMPOWERMENT

7.1. Sowing seeds of opportunity: youth empowerment through akabarey farming in Gorkha.

In 2025, Punya Foundation partnered with the Bimala Binishma Panta Foundation to launch a youth empowerment initiative in Palungtar, Gorkha, Nepal, centred on cultivating an export-grade chillies called akabarey.

The purpose of the project is to build agricultural entrepreneurship among local youth, reviving rural economies while providing meaningful livelihoods. By growing these high-value chillies, young farmers can generate income and strengthen community resilience.

The key achievements include establishing a structured farming program, training participants in sustainable agricultural techniques, and fostering collaboration between the two foundations. The initiative also promotes environmental stewardship and long-term land use planning in Palungtar.

Driving the project is Bimala Binishma Panta Foundation's Founder Mr Prakash Jung Panta and dedicated youth farmers. The collaboration reflects Punya Foundation's emphasis on empowerment, by creating sustainable opportunities in marginalized rural areas.

7.2. Women's empowerment through agriculture support program



Punya Foundation supported the Women's Empowerment through agriculture support program in partnership with the Dalit Welfare Organisation (DWO), Nepal. The initiative aimed to strengthen women's economic independence by promoting sustainable agriculture practices. Women participants received seeds, manure, tools, material to build sheds and water pipes to facilitate food security and household livelihoods. By placing women at the centre of agricultural development, the program fostered self-reliance, confidence, and leadership within marginalised communities.

The photo features Dr Lakshmi Prasad Dhakal visiting the project site in company of Mr Mohan Niraula, President Punya Foundation Nepal, Mr Tanka Biswakarma, Program Director from DWO, beneficiaries and volunteers. This initiative reflects Punya Foundation's ongoing commitment to justice, dignity, and empowerment through livelihood support, contributing to long-term community resilience and social inclusion.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, NETWORKING AND AWARENESS

8.1. Growing Green Connections – Salisbury Park Clean-Up



In May 2025, Punya Foundation led a park-cleaning initiative at Pioneer Park, Salisbury, led by Pundit Santiram Upadhaya Dhakal, Director of Culture and Spirituality. The event brought together children and adults, fostering intergenerational participation.

The event achieved more than just tidying up the park: it fostered social cohesion, encouraged civic pride, and provided a platform for networking. The initiative reflects Punya Foundation's mission of community empowerment and inclusion, highlighting the dedication of volunteers and the enthusiasm of participants.

8.2. A poetic milestone: celebrating 15 years through global verse

On 20 June 2025, Punya Foundation celebrated its 15th years of establishment by hosting a global poem-recitation event. The event brought together members of its international community and highlighted the Foundation's mission of justice, education, empowerment, and cultural unity through literary and spiritual expression.

Mr JN Bhandari, Director of Administration, coordinated the overall program. The event highlighted Foundation's 15-year legacy, strengthening communal and international bonds, and reaffirmed its commitment to uplifting underprivileged communities. It also reinforced the role of poetry and shared cultural expression in promoting unity and empowerment worldwide.



8.3. Lighting the way: candlelight vigil for peace in Nepal

On 13 September 2025, Punya Foundation in collaboration with multiple community organisations held a peaceful candlelight vigil in Salisbury, symbolising hope and solidarity with the people of Nepal. The event promoted peace, hope, and collective support, reflecting the Foundation’s commitment to justice.

Community members from diverse faiths participated, demonstrating unity and providing a space for communal reflection. The vigil reinforced the Foundation’s role in bringing communities together fostering reflection, compassion, and collective responsibility for global peace. Mr Hari Adhikari, Director of Programs and Mr Puskar Poudyal, community volunteer played crucial role to organise the program.



8.4. Amplifying migrant voices

In September 2025, Punya Foundation engaged with the South Australian Multicultural Commission (SAMC) to highlight challenges faced by migrant communities. Convened by Ms Luisa Greco (Chair) and Ms Manju Khadka (Commissioner), the dialogue focused on limited access to culturally appropriate services, social isolation and gaps in community infrastructure.

CEO Mr Kashi Adhikari represented the Foundation, sharing ongoing community engagement initiatives. The meeting marked a milestone in advocacy, elevating migrant voices to decision-makers and fostering collaboration with the SAMC.



8.5. Hartfelt Gratitude: Thanking the Maha Yagya Sponsors

A thanksgiving dinner held in Adelaide honoured the sponsors of the Maha Yagya, a landmark spiritual event that raised over \$1 million toward the Mandir project. The evening celebrated the generosity of the sponsors, volunteers and supporters whose unity transformed a shared vision into meaningful progress.

The dinner program was generously sponsored by Mr Hari Poudyal, Director of Bamboo Home Services, for which Punya Foundation extends its sincere gratitude. As a mark of appreciation, Punya Foundation presented plaques to all Maha Yagya sponsors in recognition of their invaluable contributions. The event concluded with a renewed and collective commitment to complete the Mandir, reinforcing a shared vision of faith, community, and service.



8.6. Together in Remembrance: Bondi Beach Tragedy Vigil

On 19 December 2025, Punya Foundation, in partnership with more than 15 community organisations, organised a candlelight vigil in Playford to honour and remember the lives lost in the tragic Bondi Beach shooting. The event brought together people from diverse cultural and faith backgrounds, providing a respectful space for reflection, remembrance, and collective healing.

Attendees observed a minute of silence and lit candles together, symbolising unity, compassion, and hope. A Buddhist prayer was offered by Tulku Rinpoche Kezang Tamang, a Hindu prayer by Pundit Santiram Upadhaya Dhakal, and a Christian prayer by Chaplain Leane from the Salvation Army.

Community leaders also addressed the gathering, with Hon. Glenn Docherty, Mayor of the City of Playford, acknowledging the importance of multicultural harmony and community unity while reinforcing the community's strengths and solidarity. Mr Hari Adhikari, Director of Programs and Mr Puskar Poudyal were primarily involved in organising this program. Punya Foundation extends its heartfelt thanks to all partners and volunteers whose support made this meaningful event possible.

HEALTH AND RELIEF

9.1. Breaking the silence: community consultation



On 8 February 2025, Punya Foundation hosted a community consultation in Salisbury, South Australia to address family, domestic, and sexual violence within culturally diverse communities. The session was facilitated by the TECS project team in collaboration with FECCA and SSI.

The consultation provided a culturally safe space for dialogue, enabling participants to share personal and community perspectives, identify culturally specific challenges, and raise awareness of support needs. Feedback was collected through pre- and post-surveys and follow-up interviews, highlighting the importance of tailored interventions across faiths and communities. The session strengthened community engagement and informed culturally responsive approaches to support survivors.

9.2. Lifesaving contribution: annual blood donation drive

On 20 June 2025, Punya Foundation organised its annual Blood Donation Drive at the Modbury Blood Donation Centre. Led by Mr Hari Adhikari (Director of Programs) and supported by Mr Sanman Kafley (Director of Operation), the event aimed to support the local blood supply and foster generosity and community engagement.

Blood donors included a pool of community members from diverse upbringings, predominantly with a migrant background. The drive generated a lasting sense of empowerment, where donors felt proud not only to give, but to belong and actively shaping communities and giving back with purpose.



9.3. Bridging the gap: empowering Nepali-speaking communities for better cancer outcomes

Punya Foundation is implementing a project to engage and empower Nepali-speaking migrants in Australia. The project is funded by Cancer Australia Grant - Supporting People with Cancer.

Purpose:

- Co-design culturally sensitive workshops and resources
- Improve understanding of cancer screening
- Reduce stigma and strengthen healthcare communication

Approach:

- Community consultations and interactive sessions in QLD, VIC, SA, TAS & NSW
- Partnerships with community organisations, cancer service providers

Leadership & timeline:

- Dr Lakshmi Prasad Dhakal – Project Lead
- Dr Santosh Adhikari – Coordinator
- Implementation ends June 2026, acquittal September 2026

The project highlights the Foundation's commitment to community empowerment, health equity, and culturally responsive education, addressing cancer disparities in underserved migrant groups.

CULTURE AND SPIRITUALITY

10.1. Building faith, unity and legacy - the 2025 Maha Yagya journey



In 2025, Punya Foundation marked a defining moment in its history, a transformative Maha Yagya held from 4–10 May in Munno Para Downs, South Australia, which successfully raised over a \$1 million toward constructing a Mandir, a cultural centre. The event was managed by the Maha Yagya Management Committee consisting of: Mr Hari Sharma (Coordinator), Mr Narayan Bhattarai, Mr Dilli Dahal, Pundit Santi Ram Upadhya Dhakal, Mr Tara Gautam, Mr Chakrasan Bhattarai, Mr Hari Adhikari, Mr Kashi Adhikari, Mrs Yog Maya Bhattarai, Mrs Pabitra Dahal and Dr Lakshmi Prasad Dhakal.

To mark the auspicious commencement of the program, on 3 May, a Kalash Yatra was organised drawing more than 350 participants - a vibrant procession symbolising divine blessing and community unity.

The event was inaugurated by Mayor Glenn Docherty, signifying strong civic endorsement. Spiritual leadership came from Swami Khagendra Neopaney and Pundit Santi Ram Upadhaya Dhakal, whose discourse, along with that of Bidushi Krishna Pokhrel and bhajans, deeply moved attendees. The Maha Yagya conclusion was observed by guests representing governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations, bhajan and kirtan mandalis, community organisations, local businesses, Bhumi Daata and Punya Foundation's well-wishers. Attending the conclusion of the Maha Yagya, Mr Matt Burnell MP for Spence was appreciative and supportive of the initiative.

A dedicated team performed puja - including Mr Bashu Dev Khatiwada, Mr Narayan Khatiwada, Mr Narad Subedi, Mr Khim Lal Subedi, Mr Nanda Lal Adhikari, Mr Deo Narayan Adhikari, Mr Chabi Lal Dabadi, and Mr Tika Sapkota—sustained the sacred rituals across the week. Significant volunteers for catering included Mrs Hema Dhunyel, Mrs Pabitra Dahal, Mrs Sita Poudyal, among a group of more than a dozen.

Mr Hari Poudyal's Coordination of the Maha Yagya is appreciated by Punya Foundation team and extends its sincere thanks. Overall, the 2025 Maha Yagya was a resounding success, spiritually enriching, culturally unifying, and a concrete leap toward establishing a vibrant Mandir for generations to come.



10.2. Reflective narrative from the Maha Yagya Coordinator



The Maha Yagya held in May 2024 will always remain one of the most emotional and unifying moments in our community's journey. What began as a humble dream became a powerful movement, driven entirely by love, faith, and the tireless dedication of our volunteers. With pure devotion, they visited homes, shared the vision, and inspired 128 generous Bhumi Daan donors whose blessings and support became the foundation of our future spiritual

centre, a sacred place of faith for generations yet to come.

Every step of the Yagya preparation carried deep meaning. Volunteers worked as one family - cooking, cleaning, organising, coordinating, and serving with genuine warmth. Their efforts turned the event into more than a religious gathering; it became a symbol of unity, sacrifice, and shared hope.

The Yagya reminded us that when hearts come together, miracles truly happen. It strengthened our belief that our community can achieve anything when guided by purpose and mutual respect. As we look back with gratitude and pride, we also look forward with hope, knowing that this was not the end, but the beginning of many more meaningful milestones to come.

Mr Hari Poudyal

Coordinator, Maha Yagya

10.3. Divine celebration and community connection: Krishna Janma Astami in Salisbury.

Punya Foundation marked Krishna Janma Astami in Salisbury, South Australia, as a spiritually rich and community building event. The purpose was twofold - to celebrate the spirituality and to foster engagement within the local Nepali speaking and multicultural community. The gathering underscores Foundation's ongoing commitment to cultural and spiritual unity.

During the celebration, participants came together for devotional singing, prayer rituals, and spiritual company. The event highlighted Foundation's core mission of bridging cultural identity and community cohesion through shared spiritual traditions nurturing intergenerational participation and reinforcing its role as a cultural pillar in the local community.



10.4 Panchami Puja 2025: strengthening spiritual bonds.

On 28 August 2025, Punya Foundation held a spiritually significant Panchami Puja in Salisbury, South Australia, bringing together members of the local Hindu and Nepali speaking community for a day of devotion. The purpose of the event was to honour the tradition associated with Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, and to reinforce the values of household harmony, familial unity, and cultural heritage.

Led by committed volunteers, especially many women from the community, the ceremony featured ritual worship, prayers, and devotional offerings. It served as much more than a religious observance, it was a meaningful platform to connect spiritually, renew cultural identity, and foster social cohesion.



10.5. Durga Puja: peace, prosperity and unity through faith

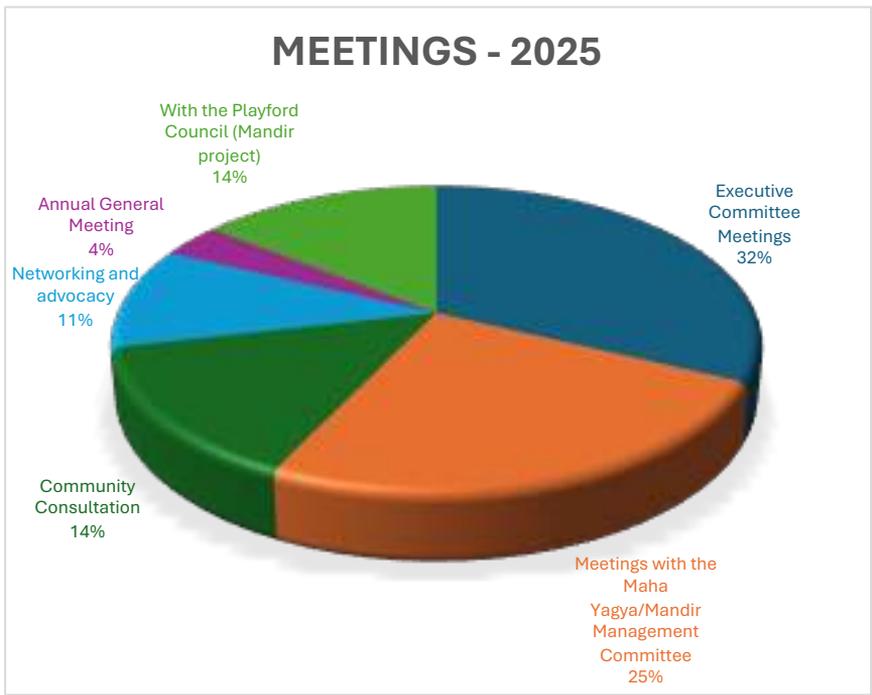
As part of the Foundation's ongoing efforts to build a Mandir, a meaningful Durga Puja celebration was organised on 27 September 2025. The event brought together devotees and community members in an atmosphere filled with devotion, unity and cultural pride.

The puja was conducted by Pundit Santi Ram Upadhaya Dhakal and Pundit Som Nath Bhattarai, with assistance from Mr Basudev Khatiwada, Mr Hari Khatiwada, Mr Mohan Bhattarai, Mr Devi Charan Adhikari, Mr Tika Ram Adhikari, Mr Tika Ram Sapkota and Mr Benu Khatiwada. Food preparation was led by Ms Madhavi Dhakal, Ms Pratima Adhikari and Mr Hem Adhikari. Financial management was overseen by Mr Kamal Bajgai, Coordinator of Finance.

The program was coordinated by Mr Hari Adhikari, the Program Director. Mr Kashi Adhikari, CEO, and Mr Hari Sharma, Coordinator of the Mandir Construction Committee, shared updates on the progress of council planning approval for the Mandir construction and outlined forthcoming donation categories. In closing, Mr Kashi Adhikari expressed gratitude to all donors, volunteers and well-wishers for their ongoing support and contributions towards realising the vision of the Mandir.

ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNANCE

Punya Foundation experienced a notably intense and active year in 2025 in terms of decision-making processes. In addition to numerous informal discussions, the Foundation conducted 28 formal meetings focused on strategic planning, financial oversight, and policy development. The distribution of these meetings is as follows:



12. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

12.1. Punya Foundation, United States of America

PUNYA FOUNDATION USA - Financials 2025			
A. Opening Balance as 01/01/2025			\$1,557.42
B. Donations on Bank Account			
Date	Donor Name	Amount	Donor Location
30/5/2025	employee match 50/50	\$1,000.00	
9/7/2025	Healthy Adult Day Healthcare	\$400.00	KY (for Badi kids)
29/7/2025	Freedom senior Share LLC	\$1,500.00	KY (for Badi kids)
14/11/2025	Bhim Kri Sapkota	\$250.00	UT
Sub-total		\$3,150.00	
C. Donations From PayPal			
Date	Donor Name	Amount	Donor Location
30/8/2025	Buddha Mani Dhakal	\$102.53	KY
28/12/2025	Gyanu Dulal	\$250.00	OH
Sub-total		\$352.53	
D. Expenditure			
Date	Particular	Amount	
30/5/2025	employee match platform fee	\$29.00	
22/8/2025	paypal fee	\$2.53	
8/9/2025	Nepal transfer to pay com salary	\$289.10	
15/9/2015	Nepal transfer to Badi scholarship	\$2,500.00	
28/12/2025	paypal fee	\$5.47	
Total		\$2,826.10	
Ending Balnce as 12/31/25		A+B+C-D	\$2,233.85
Actual closing bal 12/31			\$2,233.85
		Shortage/Over	\$0.00

12.2. Punya Foundation - Australia

RENOWNED TAX AGENT

M: 0478 061 065 | 0432 103 070
P: 03 8088 3181
E: accounts@renownedtaxagent.com.au
khem_khanal2002@yahoo.com

Punya Foundation Inc

ABN 32 392 287 915

Financial Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Substituted Accounting Period (SAP) used in accordance with the Constitution of the Organisation

Responsible Persons' Declaration

We declare that, in our opinion:

1. The attached financial report presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Punya Foundation Inc as of 31 December 2025, and its performance for the year then ended.
2. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the **Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements (RDR)** and the **ACNC Governance Standards**.
3. The Substituted Accounting Period (SAP) has been applied in accordance with the Constitution of the Organisation.
4. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Signed for and on behalf of the Responsible Persons:

Name	Position	Signature	Date
Dr. Lakshmi Prasad Dhakal	Director /Founder		17/01/2026
Hari Pokhrel	Treasurer/Director of Finance		17/01/2026

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

As of 31 December 2025,

Assets	Amount (AUD)
Current Assets	
CBA Bank – Closing	35,707.24
NAB – PF – Closing	36,142.56
NAB – Mandir – Closing	97,321.52



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NAB – Fixed Deposit (3 months)	50,000.00
Total Current Assets	<u>219,171.32</u>
Non-Current Assets	
PF Shares – Closing	46,210.32
DF Shares – Closing	14,143.73
SMF Investment	28,900.00
Mandir Land & Construction (WIP)	1,014,689.95
Total Non-Current Assets	<u>1,103,944.00</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,323,115.32</u>
Liabilities & Equity	Amount (AUD)
Liabilities	0
Equity	
Revaluation Reserve – PF	2,953.32
Revaluation Reserve – DF	6,912.98
Accumulated Funds	253,532.09
Total Equity	<u>1,323,115.32</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>1,323,115.32</u>

Income & Expenditure Statement

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Income	Amount (AUD)
Donations – Individuals/Business	9,065.53
Mandir – Bhumi Daan & Mahayagya	965,221.73
Janma Astami	2,215.85
Mandir – Construction Donations	28,000.00
Durga Puja	1,138.00
Fundraise Dinner	4,680.00
Lions Club (Angle Vale)	1,050.00
Bimala Binishma Pant Foundation	14,000.00
Cancer Australia Grant	75,700.00
FECCA Grant	3,750.00
Dividends – PF	4,283.65
Dividends – DF	662.28
Bank Interest	739.74
Total Income	1,110,507.78
Expenditure	Amount (AUD)
Education & Empowerment	
Scholarships – Nepal (Orphaned/Poor/Vulnerable)	14,000.00



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Tax agent
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Scholarships – Blind/Visually Impaired	1,771.54
Scholarships – Bhutanese Refugees	0
Scholarships – Dalit Students	750.00
Microfinance – Agriculture (Dalit Women)	750.00
Fundraising & Community Programs	
Mahayagya Expenses	17,019.93
Krishna Janma Astami	647.00
Panchami Puja	364.67
Durga Puja Groceries	528.00
Fundraise Dinner Costs	2,000.00
Venue/Hall Hire	2,212.50
FECCA – Family/Domestic/Sexual Violence	2,150.00
Park Cleaning	10.00
Aussie Druk Volleyball	100.00
Thanksgiving to Sponsors	704.00
Smithfield Property Expenses	
SA Water	1,367.40
Council Rates	814.10
Revenue SA	196.40
Fencing	4,000.00
Administration	
Stationery & Printing	471.98
Website Domain Renewal	20.33
Indemnity Insurance	898.00
Bank/Transaction Fees	14.00
Annual Report Design	0
Total Expenditure	50,790.85
Net Surplus for the Year	1,059,716.93

Cash Flow Statement	
For the Year Ended 31 December 2025	
Cash Flows from Operating Activities	Amount (AUD)
Receipts from donations, grants, fundraising, and other income	1,110,507.78
Payments to suppliers, programs, and administration	(50,790.85)
Net Cash from Operating Activities	1,059,716.93
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	Amount (AUD)
Purchase of Mandir land & construction	(1,014,689.95)



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Purchase of shares / investments	(89,253.73)
Dividends received	4,945.93
Interest received	739.74
Net Cash used in Investing Activities	(1,098,258.01)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities	Amount (AUD)
Refund / Payback / Other financing inflows	8,000.00
Net Cash from Financing Activities	8,000.00
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash (30,541.08)	
Cash at Beginning of Period (Opening balance) 249,171.40	
Cash at End of Period (CBA + NAB Accounts) 218,630.32	

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Basis of Preparation

- o These financial statements are prepared as a **medium charity** in accordance with ACNC requirements and relevant AASB standards.
- o **Substituted Accounting Period (SAP)** is applied based on the constitution.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

- o Revenue recognition: Donations, grants, and fundraising income are recognized when received.
- o Property, plant & equipment: Mandir Land & Construction is carried at cost (Work in Progress).
- o Investments: Shares are recorded at fair value.

3. Equity

- o Revaluation reserves arise from the increase in value of PF and DF shares.

4. Related Party Transactions

- o No related party transactions that are unusual or outside ordinary course of business.

Independent Accountant's Review Report

To the Members of Punya Foundation Inc

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report of **Punya Foundation Inc**, which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as of 31 December 2025, the Income & Expenditure Statement and Cash Flow Statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements.

Responsible Persons' Responsibility

The Responsible Persons of Punya Foundation Inc are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the ACNC requirements, including determining that



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the entity is a medium charity and applying the Substituted Accounting Period (SAP) in accordance with its constitution.

Accountant's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with **Australian Auditing Standards ASRE 2400 Engagements to Review Financial Reports**. A review is limited primarily to inquiries of the Responsible Persons and analytical procedures applied to financial data and thus provides less assurance than an audit.

Review Procedures

- Examination of financial records and accounting policies
- Verification of bank balances, fixed deposits, and investments
- Analytical procedures on revenue and expenditure trends
- Cross-checking of trial balance and prior year balances

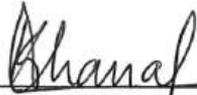
Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements of **Punya Foundation Inc.** do not give a true and fair view, in all material respects, of its financial position as at 31 December 2025 and of its performance for the year then ended, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and **ACNC requirements**.

Independence Statement

We confirm that we are independent of **Punya Foundation Inc.** and have met the independence requirements of professional accounting bodies.

Signed:



KHEM PRASAD KHANAL
RENOWNED TAX AGENT

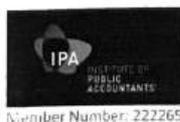
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IPA Member number: 222265

Mobile number: 0478 061 065

E-mail: khem_khanal2002@yahoo.com

Date: 17-01-2026



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