

MEDIA RELEASE

Marist College returns to Samoa for Malaga Tautua tour, Reunites with Children of the Campus of Hope

30 June 2025 Apia Samoa --- As part of their ongoing partnership with the Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG), Marist College from New Zealand has returned to Samoa for their *Malaga Tautua tour*—a journey of cultural connection, compassion, and service.

The group arrived over the weekend, and on Sunday, they visited the children at the Campus of Hope, a safe space for survivors of violence under the care of SVSG. Their arrival was marked by a traditional Samoan ‘ava ceremony, a cultural gesture of welcome performed by the children themselves.

Following the formal welcome, the guests shared in a Samoan *toonai*, featuring traditional dishes prepared in the *umu* such as taro, banana, palusami, and other local favorites. The visit reflected the strong bond between SVSG and Marist College, whose students and staffs has continuously shown care and support through their previous visit.

The *Malaga Tautua* is more than just a school trip—it is an opportunity for the students to witness the transformative work of SVSG, spend time with the children, and learn about the cultural richness of Samoa.

Later this week, the students will be introduced to another key arm of SVSG—the work of the *Nofotane* women, who continue to empower themselves through small business initiatives.

On this week Wednesday, the highlight of the tour will be a fun-filled beach day, hosted by Marist College for the children of the Campus of Hope—a chance to relax, laugh, and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Samoa together.

SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang acknowledges the commitment of Marist College:

“Their return through the *Malaga Tautua* speaks to a partnership that is rooted in shared values of compassion and service. The children look forward to these visits, and the joy they bring is immeasurable.”

SVSG remains grateful to Marist College for continuing to walk alongside them in support of Samoa’s most vulnerable.





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Ensuring that victims of crime and those in need are well supported to be safe and in control to restore their lives

2016: With and for Girls Award – Star Foundation of London

2017: Innovation & Excellence Team Award – Samoa Public Service

2018: Finalist, International Children's Peace Prize 2018 – Kids Right Foundation of Amsterdam, Netherlands

2018: Human Rights Champion in Samoa – UNESCO

2019: Innovation for Sustainable Development Award – Commonwealth Secretary-General

2020: Nominated Person(s) of the Year – Samoa Observer

2021: Outstanding Contributions to Human Rights Promotion & Protection – Samoa Office of the Ombudsman/NHRI

2023: Healthy Islands Best Proposal Award – World Health Organization

