



The Divine Life Society of Australia **(Regd: inc 9877082)**

1. Beginning

In order to arrange worshipful Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj visit to Australia, a few devotees met on 4th May 1997 and decided to form a branch. A request was formally made to His Holiness Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj seeking His Grace and Blessings on 16th May 1997. Worshipful Sri Swamiji sent His Blessings on the same day by a Fax letter. The Association was formally incorporated in 2001.

2. Our Objectives

Many spiritual seekers from various parts of the world have made Australia their home. They share their beliefs and philosophy with generations of Australians who have studied and appreciated Indian spiritual way of life and culture. The common interest is enshrined in the following objectives of the DLS Australia.

Propagating the name of the Almighty and Supreme, and by holding and arranging spiritual discourses and conferences and frequent cultural and spiritual gatherings for the welfare of humanity.

Conduct Yoga, Meditation and other wellbeing courses for the community.

Foster inter-religious harmony, mutual understanding and respect for religious views of others and promote universal brotherhood.

Conduct Hindi, Sanskrit, other languages and scripture classes to meet the growing need of the youth and Australian spiritual community.

Build and maintain a Public Library and a Divine Sadhana complex (Sivananda Educational Foundation) to achieve the above objectives and purposes.

3. Our Progress

In keeping with our aims and objectives, and in response to the religious and spiritual needs of our community, we organise a number of activities all round the year. We do not have permanent premises of our own, as of yet, so we hire community halls or arrange meetings at the residences of devotees.

4. Our regular activities are:

Monthly Satsang: These are held on the first Sunday of every month, currently at Strathfield Girls High School premises: Attendance at these monthly Satsangs varies from 40 to 80 people. A monthly 'Guided' meditation using SKYPE is also conducted.

Sri Guru Purnima, Satgurudev Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj's Birthday Celebrations & Other discourses: These public functions are held to celebrate and disseminate spiritual knowledge. We have been highly blessed with the visit to Australia by a number of saints from DLS HQ including His Holiness Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj, H.H. Sri Swami Yogaswarupanandaji, H.H. Sri Swami

Ramaswarupanandaji, H.H. Sri Swami Muktanandaji, H.H. Sri Swami Nirliptanandaji and H.H. Sri Swami Padmanabhanandaji to bless the Australian devotees. During these visits by saints from Holy Ashram, we have also facilitated several retreat programs conducted by the visiting Swamijis.

Hindi and Scripture/s classes: These are being conducted for the last several years. The classes are organised to facilitate spiritual activities in our young children.

Library: The Library operates from a number of locations in devotees' homes. The members can buy or take books on loan from the collection.

Yoga and Mediation courses: We have been conducting Yoga & Meditation classes for a number of years in Sydney and Canberra which have been well received.

Newsletter: We publish quarterly and monthly newsletters, which are posted and emailed to devotees. They contain activities of various branches in Australia. And also contain articles from the legendary founder H.H. Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj, H.H. Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj and H.H Swami Krishnanadaji Maharaj.

Website (www.dlsaus.org) & Online Satsang: The DLS Australia web presence began in 2001. The site has continuously been upgraded to provide a fast and effective means of communication to pass on Holy Masters' messages to the membership and general public who are interested in spiritual wisdom. It provides online access to DLSA calendar of events relating to Spiritual, Cultural, Social and Relief work, Yoga and Wellbeing activities. Keeping up with the times, DLS Australia now uses Skype, Facebook and YouTube actively with some use of USTREAM along with Guided Meditation sessions using Skype.

5. Fund Raising - DLS Australia Sivananda Educational Foundation Building Fund

This is a major part of our divine activities. Most of the funds are collected by donations, which are tax deductible for contributions above \$2. We have been organising cultural programs and in year 2016 a drama program is being presented to spread divine messages of Holy Masters and to raise funds for the DLS Australia Sivananda Educational Foundation Building Fund.

6. DLS Australia Overseas Aid Fund

We collect donations for Educational development and Eye Care rehabilitation programs. The operational part of these divine programs is handled by the DLS HQ in Rishikesh (India) and Sivananda Ashram in Uttarkashi (India). As and when required, we have also been supporting other programs and relief activities, such as Leprosy rehabilitation, Earthquake and Flood Relief etc.

7. Our Administration

The day-to-day running of our organisation is done by an annually elected Management Committee, consisting of a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, assistant treasurer, assistant secretary and several members. The Management Committee meets regularly to discuss and transact the divine activities.

Membership is open to all and the membership dues are Life Membership \$200, annual membership family \$20, single \$10. In financial matters strict accounting procedures are adhered to along with the commitment of accountability to the community.

8. Acknowledgement

Many individual devotees, donors and organisations have helped DLS Australia to come to this point. We wish to record our sincere gratitude to all of them. Most notable amongst them have been:

AusAid and the Australian Taxation Office for approving the Tax Deductibility to the DLS Australia Overseas Aid fund and DLSA Swami Sivananda Educational Foundation Building Fund.

Also thanks to other government agencies, city councils for facilitating and supporting DLS activities.

We humbly request their ongoing support to continue on this noble path of service to the community and society.

9. Blessings

Our salutations and deep gratitude to H.H. Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj for his Eternal Grace on Australian devotees. Many grateful thanks to H.H. Sri Swami Venkatesananda, H.H. Sri Swami Karunananda, H.H. Sri Swami Vishnudevananda, H.H. Sri Swami Anasaktananda, H.H. Sri Swami Lakshmanandaji, Revered Hilary Perry-Keene Mataji, Revered Kamala Mataji for their Grace in putting the Divine Life Society seeds in Australia as early as 1959. We convey our sincere thanks with deep gratitude to beloved Gurudev H.H. Sri Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj who visited and blessed us in 1970 and 1999, H.H. Sri Swami Krishanandaji, H.H. Sri Swami Vimalanandaji, H.H. Sri Swami Yogaswarupanandaji, H.H. Sri Swami Ramaswarupanandaji, H.H. Sri Swami Niriliptanandaji and H.H. Sri Swami Padmanabhanandaji for Their Grace. We thank H.H. Sri Swami Padmanabhanandaji for His Divine presence to celebrate 125th Birth Anniversary of the Most Worshipful H.H. Sri Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj and 13th Anniversary of Worshipful Holy Master Swami Chidanandaji Maharaj visit to Australia. We also profusely thank H.H. Sri Swami Niriliptanandaji for His Divine presence, to celebrate H.H. Sri Swami Chidanandaji's Centenary year celebrations in Australia, including the staging of an epic drama production called **Swami Chidananda – 'An Ocean of Compassion'**.