

PROJECT COMPASSION



Malo lava! That means hello in Samoan!

My name is Toefuata'iga (Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah), and I am so excited to be writing to you today! You might recognise me from this year's Project Compassion videos or maybe you've learnt about me in your classroom this year. I heard that you're taking part in The BIG Water Walk, and I just wanted to say a **HUGE fa'afetai tele lava** (thank you very much)!

At my primary school in Samoa, we used to run out of water all the time. It meant we couldn't wash our hands, we were thirsty, and sometimes we'd get sick. When the water ran out, we had to go home early too – leaving school early made me sad because we had to miss out on learning. But because of people like you, and the amazing work of Caritas Australia, everything has changed, and we can stay at school and learn.

Now, thanks to you, working with Caritas Australia in partnership with Caritas Samoa, my school has a big water tank, and it's made such a difference. I have just graduated from my primary school – where I was so proud to come SECOND in my whole grade! My favourite subject is chemistry because I love finding out how things work. When I'm not learning, you can usually find me playing cricket and rugby with my friends. One day, my dream is to be a teacher, so I can help other kids have the same chance for a bright future.

But even though my old school has access to clean water now, there are still lots of schools such as the one I am currently going to in Samoa that need your help. Many children and families still face challenges in getting the water they need for their daily lives.

What you are doing is amazing – thank you for walking with me! Your fundraising is helping more schools like mine and is making a real difference for kids like me in Samoa, giving us access to clean water and a chance at a better education. I hope you feel proud—because I think you are incredible!

Fa'afetai tele lava, (thank you very much) from the bottom of my heart.

Toefuata'iga

Samoa