



Sangha Support Group

The blessing of the Dharma gem in our lives has only been made possible by more than one hundred generations of Buddhist monks and nuns, almost entirely Asians, living lives of great commitment as Dharma guardians, practitioners and teachers. In Australia we are blessed by having access to Asian monastic teachers and models and, increasingly, to Western monastics.

Recently we have become aware of a number of circumstances that have inspired us to think about how to generalise support for monastic Sangha in South Australia and throughout Australia generally. What follows is a number of possibilities but the imagination and commitment of numbers of people will make the real difference.

These include spreading the blessing of the Sangha gem further by investigating the ways nuns and monks, Asian and Western, need support in their lives.

The inaugural meeting of Support Our Sangha was held at Oasis, Flinders University on Saturday September 20th, 2008 at 4.00 p.m. Soup and bread were shared in a simple meal together. We planned two events and had a lovely time together.

No formal organisational structures have been put in place. That may become necessary. It is also important for the leadership of the group to come from lay people with support from monastics.

If you are interested in participating, please come to the events we have planned by contacting Thích Thông Pháp on thon0012@flinders.edu.au. As an interim measure only he will give you the information.

24 September 2008

Ways to support the Sangha

- Moral support.
- Financial support.
- Housing.
- Training and education;
- Teaching “Buddhist” English and creating connections for Asian monastics with Australian people and culture.
- Negotiating with the Department of Immigration.
- Making the Sangha and its needs more visible to local Buddhists.
- Promoting Sangha education and training.
- Encouraging local people to experience for themselves a taste of Sangha life and to foster vocations.