



2 June 2015

**Statement from Joanne Smithson, Chief Executive at Lattitude Global Volunteering**

We are all deeply saddened by the deaths of Alice Barnett and Summer Robertson. Lattitude is a small organisation and the impact of this incident has been felt by everyone in the organisation, especially our UK and South Africa teams. Our thoughts are with the friends and families of Alice and Summer.

We have been determined to understand fully what happened at Woody Cape and we are grateful to the Coroner for his sensitivity in dealing with the evidence and his conclusions in this case.

Immediately after the incident our trustees instigated an internal review, the results of which were given to the Coroner, and we have made several changes to our operating processes which came into effect in February this year.

Lattitude Global Volunteering has a long track record of enabling young people to undertake volunteering projects in many countries around the globe, furthering their personal development and benefitting the communities where they live and work. In doing this nothing is more important to us than the health and safety of our volunteers.

Alice and Summer were popular members of their team, who had generously given their time to support others. They contributed a huge amount during their time on the programme, where they supported our local partners in outreach activities with young people in the community. Their deaths are truly a most terrible loss.

We are grateful to the Coroner for his comments and have noted the reasons for his narrative conclusion. We welcome his view on generating wider awareness of the risks associated with rip currents and will look at how Lattitude can play a part in raising awareness of this issue with a wider audience.

**ENDS**