

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Senate Additional Estimates, February 2011
Questions on Notice: AusAID

Question No. 1

Senator Birmingham asked on notice.

1. On 9th. Dec. 2010, filmmaker James Ricketson, producing a television documentary, LOSING GROUND, that touches in part on the efficacy of Australian aid, sent a letter to Mr Rudd in which he asked: “Is there any Overseas Development Assistance program or initiative anywhere in the world that I would be able to document and include in LOSING GROUND as an example of how Australian aid money is spent?” Why has the Department of Foreign Affairs neither responded to this request nor acknowledged receipt of the letter in which it was made?
2. Mr Ricketson has several times requested that Mr Rudd or some representative of DFAT speak on camera for his documentary about Australian aid to Cambodia and elsewhere in the world. His requests have been refused. Why?
3. In an email to Mr Rudd’s office, dated 14th December, Mr Ricketson asked “In the event that AusAID and DFAT continue to refuse to allow filming to occur, could you please send me a list of all the Overseas Development Assistance projects worldwide that I am not allowed to film?” Mr Ricketson did not receive either a response to this request or acknowledgement of its receipt. As a result he wrote to Prime Minister Julia Gillard on 14th Jan 2011, copied to Mr Rudd, which includes the following: “Could I please be provided with a list of all the ODA projects, schemes, initiatives being funded, through AusAID and DFAT by the Australian tax-payer? If the audience is not allowed to see its tax-dollars at work it should at least, surely, be able to view a list of the programs that AusAID and DFAT are funding—either in part or in full!” The Prime Minister’s office did not acknowledge receipt of Mr Ricketson’s letter. Will Mr Ricketson be provided with a list of Overseas Development Assistance projects—along with the budgets attached to them?
4. Why has Mr Ricketson not been allowed to interview and film officials and AusAID program workers? In what circumstances are film makers or journalists allowed to interview and film such officials or workers? Have other filmmakers or journalists been allowed to visit, document or film AusAID programs? Please detail the circumstances of any approvals granted.

Answer:

1. Mr Ricketson’s letter to the Foreign Minister on 9 December 2010 was referred to AusAID not the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Mr James Ricketson has made over 25 enquiries to AusAID, DFAT and Australian embassy staff in Phnom Penh since April 2009. The questions raised in Mr Ricketson’s letter of 9 December 2010 had also been raised in other letters and correspondence, and have been responded to. The following substantive responses have been provided to Mr Ricketson:
16 June 2009: Chargé d’Affaires, Australian Embassy, Phnom Penh, responded to Mr Ricketson’s initial emailed questions regarding Australia’s approach to the Group 78 situation;

22 June 2009: Chargé d'Affaires, Australian Embassy, Phnom Penh, on behalf of the Ambassador, declined Mr Ricketson's request for a filmed interview and referred further questions to DFAT's media liaison section;

30 June 2009: Acting Director Media Liaison, DFAT, provided Mr Ricketson with substantive responses to questions he provided by email. The email noted that DFAT had sought AusAID input in answering the questions;

3 July 2009: Acting Director Media Liaison, DFAT, emailed Mr Ricketson a link to the joint donor statement to Cambodian Government on land issues (which Australia signed);

15 July 2009: Second Secretary, Australian Embassy, Phnom Penh, sent Mr Ricketson an email offering an off-the-record briefing by Ambassador Adamson on Australia's approach to land issues including Group 78, which he declined;

31 July 2009: Second Secretary, Australian Embassy, Phnom Penh, sent Mr Ricketson an email noting the Embassy's previous advice on this matter and confirming the Embassy had no further information to provide;

26 May 2010: Counsellor AusAID, Australian Embassy, Phnom Penh, provided Mr Ricketson, by letter, a detailed outline of Australia's development assistance program in Cambodia;

29 October 2010: Director, Thailand, Philippines and Cambodia Section, DFAT provided Mr Ricketson by letter, a list of all responses provided by DFAT and AusAID to his enquiries. DFAT informed Mr Ricketson that it did not intend to correspond further on these matters;

3 December 2010: Communications section, AusAID replied to a media enquiry by Mr Ricketson, outlining Australian aid projects in Cambodia including approaches to safeguards and informing him that AusAID had declined his request to provide a spokesperson for interview and for AusAID to facilitate filming in AusAID funded projects in Cambodia.

2. It is not standard practice for officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to appear in documentaries.
3. On 26 May 2010 Mr Ricketson was provided by letter a detailed outline of Australia's development assistance program in Cambodia, from AusAID Counsellor Phnom Penh. In addition, information about all AusAID projects and budgets are available publicly through a variety of sources, including the Australian government's Official Development Assistance budget statement, AusAID's annual reports and statistical summaries. These publications and more information of activities by country and sector are available on the AusAID website (www.ausaid.gov.au.)
4. Request for officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and AusAID to appear in documentaries are considered on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration of a variety of issues and mitigating circumstances.

Considerations and issues taken into account include timing, security and impact on resources and costs. For example, in the case of Afghanistan many media visits are hosted by the Australian Defence Force. AusAID would seek approval from ADF for journalists to visit AusAID projects in Afghanistan. Mr Ricketson's request to interview and film officials and program workers was not approved because of the breadth of his request and the impact it would have on staff time and embassy resources. In this financial year to date nine Australian journalists have visited AusAID supported projects in five countries for the purpose of producing stories on the aid program.

List of media visits to AusAID projects – FY 2010-11

Journalist/ outlet	Country	Visit details	Dates
Chris Campey Channel 10 News	Pakistan	Mr Campey travelled with Alpha Team of joint AusAID/ADF Australian Medical Task Force (AMTF) to Camp Cockatoo in Kot Addu. He filmed the AMTF at work treating Pakistani patients. Interviewed the AusAID Team Leader - Thanh Le.	August 2010
Campbell Cooney ABC	Solomon Islands	AusAID facilitated a visit to Rove Health Clinic in Honiara.	August 2010
Adam Gartrell Australian Associated Press	Indonesia	Mr Gartrell visited Padang, West Sumatra for the commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the earthquake that happened in the province. He visited a school AusAID helped rebuild and was at the launch of the Build Back Better campaign.	September 2010
Peter Alford The Australian	Indonesia	Mr Alford also took part on the same media visit to Padang, West Sumatra.	September 2010
Annabel Hepworth The Australian	Mozambique	Ms Hepworth requested permission to write a feature on AusAID activities in Africa/ Mozambique. A fieldtrip was organised for her to see the State Veterinary Laboratories outside Maputo where Australian Newcastle Disease vaccines are produced for rural poultry farmers as part of a 4 country African food security program. A phone interview was also organised with AusAID Counsellor, Mr Percy Stanley.	September 2010
Liam Fox ABC	Papua New Guinea	Trip to Daru for coverage of the AusAID response to the cholera outbreak.	November 2010
Ilya Gridneff Australian Associated Press	Papua New Guinea	Trip to Daru for coverage of the AusAID response to the cholera outbreak.	November 2010
Tom Allard Sydney Morning Herald	Indonesia	Mr Allard visited an AusAID funded school in Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara.	February 2011
Peter Alford The Australian	Indonesia	Mr Alford visited an AusAID funded school in West Java.	February 2011

Question No. 2

Senator Bob Brown and Senator Hanson-Young asked on notice.

Regarding AusAID's four-year \$464 million commitment to the L'Aquila food security initiative:

1. What funds have been dispersed to date?
2. What areas of research are being funded under the \$170 million research component of this initiative?
3. Is the recent \$50 million contribution to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program part of or additional to the \$464 million initiative?
4. How much of the \$292 million earmarked for rural development in the 2010–11 budget is part of the \$464 million initiative?
5. The L'Aquila initiative was agreed over three years. Why has AusAID budgeted over four years?

Answer:

1. To date \$75.1 million has been expensed of the four-year \$464 million commitment (2009-10 to 2012-13). This includes funding for initiatives in Africa (regional), Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, East Asia (regional), Indonesia, the Pacific (regional), the Philippines, Solomon Islands, South Asia (regional) and Timor Leste. Departmental costs are included in this total.
2. Australia has invested in agricultural research and development that targets productivity and economic growth in developing countries and improves food security globally including:
 - In Africa, leveraging Australia's expertise in dryland and semi-arid farming systems to support key research and development organisations to improve agricultural productivity. For example, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) is supporting a maize-legume food security program in eastern and southern Africa in partnership with the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Southern Africa (ASARECA) and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT). The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) will establish a partnership in West and Central Africa to foster integrated agricultural research for development, and in East and Central Africa, will develop capacity building and research activities to improve animal health and the nutritional quality of food;
 - In East Timor, continuing to support the Seeds of Life program which promotes the use of improved crop varieties and technologies to boost production and increase returns to farmers;
 - Funding the Consultative Group for International Agriculture Research (CGIAR) and their ongoing efforts to improve global food security;
 - Support to Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) to sustainably enhance agricultural productivity, farming systems and natural resource management. The most significant of these jointly-funded programs are in Indonesia, PNG, Cambodia, East Timor and Afghanistan;
 - Support to the CSIRO for its new Flagship Research Program on Agricultural Sustainability;

- Support to the Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDT) to conserve genetic resources, such as seeds, to ensure the diversity and availability of agricultural crops worldwide.
3. Of the \$50 million committed to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), \$35 million was additional to the \$464 million Food Security through Rural Development Initiative.
 4. \$53 million of \$292 million anticipated for rural development in the 2010–11 budget is part of the \$464 million Food Security through Rural Development initiative.
 5. The parameters for the L’Aquila Food Security Initiative (AFSI) were flexible, with the focus being to mobilise US\$20 billion and reverse the decline in investment in agriculture and food security. Some donors pledged based on calendar years (for example, France committed funding for 2009 to 2011, while Germany committed funding for 2010 to 2012). Others pledged based on fiscal years. Australia’s commitment was the \$464 million Food Security through Rural Development initiative, announced in the May 2009 budget, and covered all years from 2009-10 to 2012-13. Over US\$22 billion was ultimately pledged by donors, including Australia.

Question No. 3

Senator Boswell asked on notice (page 101-102).

The website <http://liveaction.org> alleges that AusAID has given \$9 million to the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The Planned Parenthood Federation in the United States have offered to arrange abortions to underage illegally trafficked women (in the United States).

1. Are the two organisations International Planned Parenthood and Planned Parenthood Federation linked?
2. Are the allegations accurate and, if so, will AusAID continue its funding to this organisation?
3. Would it concern AusAID to be funding an organisation linked to an organisation involved in the abortions to underage illegally trafficked women in the United States?

Answer:

1. The Planned Parenthood Federation of America is a non-grant receiving member of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). IPPF is a global network with 170 member associations.
2. AusAID does not fund the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and cannot comment on the allegations.
3. AusAID provides clear guidance on how Australian funds can be used and monitors compliance with these principles. The Government opposes human trafficking. In our region AusAID has supported a range of initiatives to reduce and prevent people trafficking. These have included anti-trafficking legislation, training, and strengthening regional co-operation and law enforcement.

Question No. 4

Senator Boswell asked on notice (page 101).

The World Wildlife Fund Australian annual report details that: AusAID gave grants of \$418,648 in 2009 and \$150,000 in 2010; An amount under 'other Australians' was listed as \$1,048,639; 'Other government grants came to \$4,358,858 in 2009.' For each of the above amounts of funding:

1. What were these grants used for and where were they used?
2. Are the World Wildlife Fund programs based in Australia or overseas?
3. How does the World Wildlife Fund apply for the grants?
4. For what purpose, and for what projects, were grants provided?
5. Has the World Wildlife Fund provided an acquittal for the funds?
6. Which departments provided them? Were the funds sourced from more than one department?

Answer:

1. AusAID funding of \$418,648 in 2009 and \$150,000 in 2010 referred to in World Wildlife Fund's Annual Report was provided for an ongoing project that it has been running in PNG and Solomon Islands called the "Melanesian Sustainable Livelihoods Project". The project aims to support people to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable forest management through promotion of sustainable livelihoods and improved forest governance.

The \$1,048,639 and \$4,358,858 figures are listed under 'Grants: Government (other)' for 2010 and 2009 respectively in WWF's 2010 Annual Report. The majority of funding has been provided through programs administered by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. Further information on these funding sources should be sought from that department.

2. See answer to part 1 of the question.
3. The AusAID project outlined in Question 1 is funded under the AusAID-NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). The ANCP is a long-running program that provides an annual subsidy to accredited NGOs to undertake their own development activities. Organisations do not apply for funding under the ANCP. Rather, once they have been through the stringent accreditation process, they are entitled to receive an annual subsidy under the ANCP because of their accredited status. The accreditation criteria are at www.aid.gov.au/ngos/accreditation.cfm Further information on the application process for other grants should be sought from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities..
4. See answer to part 1 of Question 4.
5. WWF has provided acquittals for the AusAID funded project in accordance with the ANCP guidelines. Information on the acquittal of other grants should be sought from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.
6. See answer to part 1 of question 4.

Question No. 5

Senator Hanson-Young asked on notice.

A recent report by the World Bank has described the situation in PNG in relation to family planning as “a National Emergency”, noting that family planning coverage in PNG is approximately only 20 per cent of married couples and that there is an estimated unmet need of 44 per cent of married women who would like access to family planning. As family planning is one of the two most cost effective interventions for reducing PNG’s high MMR what is the Australian aid program, as the largest bilateral donor to PNG, doing to address MDG 5 and the critical unmet need for family planning?

Answer:

Maternal and infant health are key priorities for AusAID. The Australian Government is working with the Government of PNG to address poor maternal health through improving the percentage of births supervised by skilled attendants. Australia’s support to the PNG health sector helps build an effective health system, which is essential for women to have a safe pregnancy and childbirth. In 2010-11, Australia will provide \$43 million for health in PNG.

Support for family planning services forms an important part of the PNG Government's response to its Maternal Health Taskforce report. The report was launched in August 2010 following a Ministerial Taskforce on Maternal Health. It recommended actions to improve maternal health, including increased access to family planning in PNG.

Australia funded a meeting of international and local experts to help PNG develop an emergency action plan based on the report’s recommendations. Australia is contributing to the action plan by helping scale up the maternal health workforce. This will complement the work of other partners who are focusing on increasing access to family planning.

In 2011, AusAID is providing targeted support to the PNG National Department of Health (NDOH) to deliver tangible results in reducing maternal deaths and improving maternal health. Australia is funding key priorities of the emergency action plan to address maternal health and will support:

- increased access to family planning;
- the deployment of two experienced obstetricians to Mt Hagen and Madang to assist with service provision and training (A newly trained obstetric and gynaecological specialist has been deployed to Western Highlands. The Australian-provided obstetric and gynaecological specialist will mentor this person and provide regional obstetric and gynaecological services and support to all Highland Provinces);
- the deployment of eight midwifery educators to strengthen the capacity of the midwifery schools to produce competent graduates;
- a comprehensive maternal mortality audit that will provide more accurate measures of maternal mortality and a benchmark to measure and report success in reducing the overall numbers of deaths. Through this we are working with PNG on a framework to monitor and report on how our support will have resulted in a decline in maternal death;

- the procurement and distribution of maternal health emergency equipment to district hospitals and health centres in rural PNG;
- the distribution of drug kits to all health centres and aid posts in all provinces of PNG;
- the training of community health workers;
- investigating the use of outreach patrols in the provinces to increase maternal health service coverage;
- continued funding to upgrade the four existing and one additional midwifery schools to increase the numbers of skilled birth attendants in PNG.

In Bougainville, funding is provided for training of rural health workers to improve antenatal and postnatal checks and manage obstetric emergencies. This has seen a 33 per cent increase in supervised deliveries across Bougainville from 3,175 in 2005 to 4,210 births in 2009. In turn, this has led to an estimated reduction in maternal deaths from 235 per 100,000 in 2005 to 123 per 100,000 in 2009.

Activities along the Kokoda Track include training of health workers, upgrading of health facilities, and provision of essential medical supplies. This has seen a 43 per cent increase in supervised deliveries in the communities of the Kokoda Track region (including villages of Sogeri and Efogi) and a 24 per cent increase from 2007 to 2009 in the number of couples accessing family planning.

Question No. 6

Senator Hanson-Young asked on notice.

Can AusAID provide some examples of where Australia's development assistance has been effectively used to improve maternal, newborn and child health outcomes? Why is child and maternal health a priority for Australian assistance?

Answer:

Maternal and child health is an important priority for Australian assistance because too many women and children continue to die from preventable causes. Investing in the lives of mothers and children saves money, increases productivity and promotes social stability. While there has been some progress, many countries remain off track to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 (child mortality) and 5 (maternal mortality) despite cost effective means being available to address the main causes of death and ill health. Australia is committed to the UN Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health to close the financing gap and improve service delivery to accelerate progress on MDGs 4 and 5.

Examples of Australia's contribution to improved maternal, newborn and child health outcomes

In Bangladesh, Australian support has contributed to an unprecedented 40 per cent decline in maternal mortality, with MDG 5 now on track. Maternal mortality declined from 322 in 2001 to 194 in 2010. The entire decline in the maternal mortality rate has been due to reductions in direct obstetric deaths (e.g. caused by haemorrhage and eclampsia both requiring care at a facility). The main reasons for this decline are:

- fertility declines have reduced the proportion of higher risk births (family planning);

- use of facilities for deliveries increased from nine per cent to 23 per cent as a consequence of improved access to care; substantially better education outcomes for girls and improved awareness and better economic conditions (Bangladesh Maternal Mortality and Health Service Survey 2010).

Australia has significantly contributed to this success by providing maternal, neonatal and child health care in several low performing districts through UNICEF and the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) who are working in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. These programs have directly supported increased use of facilities and are providing women with better access to antenatal, emergency obstetric and neonatal care, resulting in dramatic improvements in health outcomes for mothers and their babies.

In Nepal, Australian support has helped reduce the under-five mortality rate from 61 per 1,000 live births in 2006 to 50 per 1,000 live births in 2009. Deliveries attended by skilled birth attendants increased from 19 per cent in 2006 to 33 per cent in 2009. The Australian health program in Nepal has achieved this through direct support to the government health strategy through a multi-donor pooled fund and by support to poor performing districts through UNICEF.

In East Timor, where Australia is the main donor in the health sector, infant mortality decreased from 60 per 1,000 live births in 2003 to 44 per 1,000 live births in 2009. The percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel increased from 18 per cent in 2003 to 61 per cent in 2009. The under-five immunisation rate improved from 35 per cent in 2003 to 53 per cent in 2009.

Question No. 7

Senator Hanson-Young asked on notice.

What immediate assistance is AusAID providing to strengthen health systems at the community level and ensure that health services are reaching disadvantaged and remote communities to save lives immediately?

Answer:

AusAID is providing community level care through a variety of approaches. For example:

- Australian support in Nepal (as detailed in response to Question 19), is largely pooled with other donors and channelled through government's own systems, with World Bank having oversight. This finances the Government of Nepal to support community health services and programs in rural areas, including implementing a large community-based network of female community health volunteers. These volunteers receive training and contribute to a variety of key public health programs, including family planning, maternal care, child health care, vitamin A supplementation/de-worming, and immunisation coverage. This community-based approach has helped Nepal to make progress and it is now on track to meet Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5;
- In East Timor, Australian support is helping the Ministry of Health to implement community health outreach programs. Mobile clinics provide services on a monthly basis to hard to reach areas. Clinics provide health services including pre- and post-pregnancy care for women and babies, support for family

planning, treatment and prevention of common diseases and infections, and information on hygiene and nutrition.

Question No. 8

Senator Hanson-Young asked on notice.

Given the growing evidence that investing in early childhood and maternal health has a central role to play in development, is there scope for AusAID to increase investment in child and maternal health?

Answer:

The Government is increasing its investment in child and maternal health in line with increases in overall official development assistance. At the MDG Summit in New York in September 2010 Mr Rudd announced that Australia planned to spend at least \$1.6 billion over five years to 2015 to improve maternal and child health. This includes new commitments of \$140 million for maternal and child health in eastern Africa and \$85 million for health programs in PNG and the Pacific. AusAID is also strengthening its basic health support to ensure that maternal and health needs are adequately addressed and results monitored.

Question No. 9

Senator Hanson-Young asked on notice.

Is AusAID seeking to develop an overarching strategy or framework to guide the direction of its enhanced support for maternal, newborn and child health? Has AusAID identified priority countries or regions that will be the recipients of its assistance?

Answer:

Australia's support for women and children's health focuses on improving access to skilled birth attendants, family planning and emergency obstetric and neonatal care, and reducing barriers to poor women accessing care. Australia has made forward commitments to women and children's programs in South-east Asia, South Asia, eastern Africa and the Pacific which are being implemented. AusAID is also developing options to strengthen country level support (see also Question 10) to achieve better health outcomes for women and children across our health portfolio. The report of the Review of Aid Effectiveness will be considered by the Government in setting priorities into the future.

Question No. 10

Senator Hanson-Young asked on notice.

We understand that AusAID has completed a bottom up strategy review to feed into the development of maternal, newborn and child health assistance. Can you provide further detail of the review, its main findings and how it will feed into informing Australia's future maternal health and child health assistance?

Answer:

Planning is being undertaken to implement the increasing level of assistance in the health sector. This is part of on-going efforts to ensure our health assistance is effective and targets areas of greatest need and potential impact. Women and children's health assistance makes up approximately 40 per cent of health expenditure so it is an important aspect of this process. AusAID is consulting stakeholders (Multilateral/UN organisations, Foundations, international and national NGOs, research institutions and universities, other Australian government departments, partner governments and other donors) as part of this process. A maternal and neonatal health roundtable was held on 22 April 2010 and a family planning roundtable in Melbourne on 18 March 2011. AusAID will continue to engage with health stakeholders to identify gaps and future opportunities. This will be an ongoing process over the next few months, and will take account of the outcomes of the Review of Aid Effectiveness.

Question No. 11

Senator Hanson-Young asked on notice.

The Family Planning Guidelines were revised in August 2009 to provide “the same range of family planning services for women in developing countries as are supported for women in Australia, subject to the national laws of the relevant nation concerned”. This includes support for safe abortion services, up to 20 weeks gestation. Considering there are 20 million unsafe abortions every year, and 46,000 deaths from unsafe abortion, all avoidable, how is the Australian aid program helping to reduce these statistics?

Answer:

The focus of Australian-funded family planning initiatives is to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies through the increased availability of family planning services. The United Nations Population Fund calculates that if family planning was available to all women who wanted it, 32 per cent of all maternal deaths and nearly 10 per cent of childhood deaths could be averted each year.

The aid program is strengthening maternal health services through a range of strategies. These include improving access to skilled birth attendants, family planning and emergency obstetric and neonatal care through our bilateral health programs and increasing funding for sexual and reproductive health activities including family planning. The Australian Government has also played a significant role in advocating at global forums for increased attention to maternal health and collaborating with other donors such as the US, UK and the Gates Foundation to ensure more effective responses to women's health issues.

Relevant information is also included in answer to the previous question (Question 10).

Question No. 12

Senator Hanson-Young asked on notice.

How much bilateral Australian aid funding, since August 2009 has gone to NEW family planning initiatives, that get family planning services to women who currently have an unmet need, to help reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions? How much money and support has gone to the provision of safe abortion services in the region?

Answer:

In 2010-11, the Government will exceed its commitment made in August 2009 to spend an additional \$15 million on family planning and reproductive health over four years. In 2009-10 AusAID spent approximately \$10 million on family planning-related activities. The Government expects to spend around \$20 million in 2010-11. This includes a new three-year funding agreement of \$20.5 million with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) from 2010. It also includes funding for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

AusAID is also working bilaterally in a number of countries, including in East Timor where we are providing \$5 million over two years (2010-2012) to the United States Agency for International Development's Health Improvement Project.

Approximately half of these funds will be used to provide family planning and sexual and reproductive health services in an initial five priority districts. Activities will commence on 1 June 2011. AusAID is supporting Marie Stopes International and Health Alliance International to provide family planning information and education, and to establish a reproductive health centre in Dili and safe birthing sites in the districts. AusAID is also funding UNFPA to supply and distribute contraceptives.

The aid program supports improved health outcomes for women through health programs in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Cambodia, Solomon Islands, Afghanistan, East Timor and Nepal. The aid program also funds effective international organisations and initiatives dealing with women's health, including UNICEF and the GAVI Alliance.

Question No. 13

Senator Hanson-Young asked on notice.

Australia becoming a founding member of the International Alliance for Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health is an exciting development. At the last Senate estimates the Director General of AusAID, Mr Baxter, highlighted that Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Nigeria would be the initial countries that the Alliance would focus on, and that AusAID would be working to steer the Alliance to working with Australia in some of the countries in our region, including PNG, Timor Leste and Afghanistan—how has this work progressed? How does AusAID envisage Australia contributing to meeting the Alliance's very challenging goal to reduce unmet need for family planning by 100 million women living in developing countries by 2015?

Answer:

The Alliance for Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health has expanded its initial focus countries from four to ten countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Pakistan. The Alliance has been successful at encouraging donors to engage in dialogue at country level. Nine countries have drafted concept notes to set out how partners will engage at country level. These concepts were reviewed in early March by the Alliance Coordinating Committee of which AusAID is a member. The next phase of the Alliance will involve agreeing investments and collaborations and implementing these at the country level. Australia is working closely with Alliance partners to ensure that high need countries in the Asia Pacific region are well represented.

Question No. 14

Senator Hanson-Young asked on notice.

AusAID has made a significant commitment to increasing its funding in the area of family planning. Can you please explain how investing in family planning contributes to the development of countries and the achievement of all the MDGs, and why it is so important for Australia to lead in this area, particularly in the Pacific?

Answer:

Family planning is the most cost effective way to reduce maternal and child mortality. Family planning is unique in the breadth of potential benefits including:

- in countries with high fertility rates, better access to family planning services has the potential to reduce maternal deaths by 32 per cent and childhood deaths by 10 per cent;
- family planning has proven benefits in terms of gender equality and preventing HIV infections;
- family planning can reduce poverty and promote economic growth by improving family well-being and allow greater female workforce participation and education levels.

The Asia Pacific region is home to around 40 per cent of the 350,000 deaths of women and girls that occur globally each year. In Australia's nearest neighbour, Papua New Guinea, a woman is 80 times more likely to die from pregnancy or childbirth than in Australia. In East Timor one in 18 children die before the age of five, with nearly 90 per cent of these deaths in the first year of life. As a major donor in the region Australia can play a leading role in assisting countries to reduce these levels and improve livelihoods in our neighbouring countries.

Question No. 15

Senator Kroger asked on notice.

RAMSI – women in government (CN 336131):

1. What does the tender notice cover? Please expand on the terms of reference for the program.
2. What are the benchmarks used to assess the effectiveness of the program?
3. Please provide the timeline for the project?
4. How many people will work on the project? From where will they work/operate?

Answer:

1. The Women in Government Strategy was launched by the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands in November 2007. The Tender Notice covers a cluster of activities under the third priority area of the strategy. These activities were designed to help strengthen the role of selected government and civil society organisations to support a stronger political and public role for women in the Solomon Islands.

The strategy has three objectives: to increase the percentage of women at all levels within the public service; to reduce the barriers to the election of women to national and provincial levels of government, and; to improve the capacity of organisations that have the potential to foster women's aspirations to public office. The RAMSI Women in Government Strategy recognises that the objectives of the program are long term and that many factors restrict the level of participation of women in public life. Key deliverables include:

- The development of the Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy, with the then Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs which was endorsed by the Solomon Islands Cabinet in May 2010;
 - Women's civic society organisations able to play a strong and ongoing advocacy role on behalf of women. These organisations are advocating reserved seats for women – a policy change which is now gaining wider acceptance at political levels;
 - Training and support for women candidates and potential candidates for parliament at national and provincial levels.
2. Key outcomes to date include:
 - The endorsement of the Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy by the Solomon Islands Cabinet in early 2010 and continuing support for the policy by the new NCRA Government;
 - More professionally run campaigns by women candidates. While no women were elected at the national level in the recent 2010 national elections, the first woman has been elected as Deputy Premier (in Isabel Province);
 - Improved advocacy by Women's organisations on electoral reform – including for reserved seats for women as “temporary special measures”;
 - Development of a central database to be used by government, donors and private enterprise to identify suitable Solomon Islands women who may be appointed to leadership roles on boards, state owned enterprises and on donor supported programs. This data base is used by donors and the Chamber of Commerce;
 - The publication of the book, “Being the First”: Storis Blong Oloketa Mere Lo Solomon Aelan”, documenting the stories of 14 senior women leaders. The book is now being used in schools and also used by the national media as a source of material on women and leadership in the Solomon Islands.
 3. The Women in Government program commenced in April 2008 and is due to finish in June 2012. This specific tender notice covers a range of activities planned and undertaken between July 2009 and June 2011.
 4. The project involves supporting the staff of the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs, members of the National Council of Women and associated

organisations. The project has provided two regional advisers (from Fiji and New Zealand) and one Solomon Island adviser who worked with the Ministry and the National Council through a series of inputs over the two year period. The advisers worked in the Ministry and with the National Council of Women in Honiara and in selected provincial centres.

Question No. 16

Senator Kroger asked on notice (page 113) and in writing.

Tender CN 357357 from 6 January 2011 states that HK Logistics PTY LTD has distributed secondary school textbooks in PNG for \$1,948,244.48.

1. Can you please provide a full breakdown how many books are to be distributed, to what schools and if they are allocated directly to students or their schools?
2. How many children have received those textbooks?
3. For which subjects?
4. What kind of books were distributed? When were they purchased?

Answer:

Please note two clarifications to the original question, which states that “Tender CN357353 from 6 January states that HK Logistics has distributed secondary school books in PNG for \$1,948,244.48”. Whilst the books have been procured, they have not yet been distributed, and the Services Order CN357353 for distribution by HK Logistics is actually for \$1,762,040.44. In response to the specifics of the question:

1. 309,475 textbooks will be distributed to 204 secondary schools around Papua New Guinea (including all seven national high schools), and 19,000 books will be distributed to four teacher training institutions. The schools and the teaching institutions will in turn allocate them to classes and students. In addition, science kits will be distributed to all seven national high schools.
2. Students have not yet received the books. The distribution will take place between April and June 2011. In PNG secondary school consists of Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. Official 2010 data indicates total enrolment of 109,913 students across these grades. All students in these grades are expected to benefit from these books, although some students will share books.
3. The textbooks are for the core subjects of the PNG secondary school curriculum – English, mathematics, science (chemistry, biology and physics), social sciences (history and geography) and personal development.
4. The books distributed support the lower and upper secondary curriculum, and are from a list approved by PNG Education Department. They were purchased over the period of November 2010 to March 2011.

Question No. 17

Senator Kroger asked on notice.

In November 2010, Minister Rudd issued a media release outlining the additional support for the PNG Cholera outbreak. Please provide an update on the delivery of this response and the current status of the PNG health outcome as a result of this increase.

Answer:

In November 2010, AusAID responded to the cholera outbreak in Daru immediately by providing a \$1 million package of support. This provided funding for:

- emergency response personnel and essential medical supplies to Daru Island to help treat the sick;
- the provision of an emergency clean drinking water supply system for Daru Island;
- community health promotion and treatment activities;
- a longer-term project that will provide clean water and sanitation to a number of villages along the coast of PNG's Western Province.

The situation is largely stabilised and the emergency response phase is over. AusAID continues to monitor the situation in Daru, and Western Province as a whole, and to provide ongoing support to the health sector in Western Province as part of Australia's broader strategy of development assistance for the PNG health sector.

According to the PNG National Department of Health, 339 cholera related deaths have been reported in Western Province since October 2010. AusAID is not aware of any cholera deaths in Western Province since 13 January 2011.

This response formed part of broader assistance provided to address cholera outbreaks in PNG. Since August 2009, Australia has provided comprehensive emergency support totalling \$2.14 million.

AusAID continues to provide ongoing funding to the World Health Organization to assist the PNG National Department of Health to address any further outbreaks.

Question No. 18

Senator Kroger asked on notice.

The Official Development Assistance to PNG and the Pacific which focuses on four areas: Improved education; Improved health; Improved infrastructure; Improved economic governance. As almost 60 per cent or \$29.2 million of Australia's country program funding in 2010–11 is dedicated to these partnership priority outcomes, could you please advise what outcomes have been achieved in each of these above areas?

Answer:

Australia has made significant changes to the way in which we deliver development programs in PNG and the Pacific to ensure results and deliver on partnership objectives.

The Pacific Partnerships for Development, and the Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific, aim to accelerate progress against the Millennium Development Goals across the Pacific region.

Since 2008, eleven Partnerships for Development have been signed by the Australian Government with PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Tonga, Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Palau.

Partnership priorities and the number of priority areas vary from country to country depending on individual countries' development needs. Almost 66 per cent or approximately \$400 million of Australia's country program funding in 2010-11 is dedicated to Partnership priority areas across these 11 countries.

Early results are encouraging and examples of outcomes are detailed below.

Improved Education

In PNG school fees have been abolished for the first three grades of basic education (elementary school) in 2010, with an aim to abolish all school fees by 2015. Australian support for education has seen an extra 300,000 students enrolled in elementary and primary schools compared to 2006. Net enrolment rates have increased from 54 per cent to 63 per cent over the last three years. Similar fee-free programs are also underway in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Samoa helping almost 200,000 young people get an education.

Australia is also helping children with disabilities to attend school. In Samoa for example, Australian aid supports over 300 boys and girls with disabilities by providing transport to and from school for children who need it, training teachers in sign language and other specialised skills, and providing tailored learning materials. In Kiribati, Australian funding is enabling primary and junior secondary teachers in Kiribati to improve their English language proficiency (129 teachers) as well as achieve internationally-recognised qualifications in teaching English (83 teachers). This supports Australia's long term commitment to improving English literacy in Kiribati, to help I-Kiribati gain scholarships or employment in the region.

In Nauru, the opening of the Australian-funded reconstructed Nauru Secondary School (in March 2010), has seen secondary school enrolments increase by 10 per cent.

Improved Health

In PNG Australia supports a number of maternal health related activities. In Bougainville for example, funding for training of rural health workers to improve antenatal and postnatal checks and manage obstetric emergencies has seen a 33 per cent increase in supervised deliveries across Bougainville. In Solomon Islands maternal deaths have dropped from 261 per 100,000 in 2006 to under 90 per 100,000 and 84.5 per cent of births are attended by a skilled attendant.

In PNG, HIV testing sites have increased to 457, up from 250 in 2009. This has seen more than 98,000 people tested for HIV in the first three quarters of 2010, compared to only 32,645 people accessing testing services in 2006. Australian support has meant that 74.5 per cent of people eligible in PNG were able to access treatment for HIV in 2009, compared to zero per cent in 2003. Services providing HIV treatment increased to 55 in 2009, up from 38 in 2007. HIV treatments are now available in every province of Papua New Guinea.

In Vanuatu Australian support is reducing the death rate from malaria, a major cause of illness and death in rural areas. Remarkable progress has been made in Vanuatu where the malaria incidence rate has reduced from 23 cases per thousand people in 2007 to 16 cases per thousand in 2009. Vanuatu is on track to eliminate malaria

deaths in Tafea Province by 2014. A similar program is also underway in Solomon Islands which has seen the malaria incidence rate reduce from 199 cases per thousand people in 2003 to 75 per thousand in 2010.

In Samoa Australian aid is supporting the reduction of non communicable diseases such as diabetes. Australian funding supported the Samoan Government's health campaign to increase awareness of healthy lifestyles, including diabetes screening, physical activity, tobacco control and alcohol and drug abuse.

Australian support to increase immunisation coverage is being undertaken across the Pacific region. In Nauru for example there is a 100 per cent immunization coverage for key vaccines including tuberculosis, measles, hepatitis B, polio and diphtheria.

Australia's aid program also supports the deployment of medical professionals. In Tonga for example, Australian-funded medical professionals performed 1,409 surgical procedures in 2009. Australian aid has also resulted in the establishment of an echo-cardiology service, which has diagnosed and helped more than 200 Tongan patients affected by cardiac-related diseases.

Improved Infrastructure

In PNG Australia supported the maintenance of 2,152 kilometres of national roads and highways in 2010, including a key section of the Highlands Highway from the industrial centre of Lae to Goroka (365 kms).

In Solomon Islands Australia supported the rehabilitation and maintenance of 259 km of roads and the construction of 42 log and bailey bridges in Solomon Islands between 2008 and 2010. Over 4,500 Solomon Islanders were employed on a short-term basis to do this work. The construction and maintenance of roads and bridges has improved access to markets, banking, health and education services.

In Vanuatu road maintenance and rehabilitation, funded by Australia, have commenced on 140 kms of roads on the islands of Ambae, Tanna and Malekula, which is providing job opportunities and skills for local communities. Australia also supported management reforms at the Port Vila wharf, which have doubled the throughput rates for container handling. In addition, with Australian support for the Telecom Regulator, competition in telecommunications has been introduced and mobile phone coverage now reaches over 90 per cent of the population.

In Tonga, Australia supported the development of Tonga's Energy Roadmap. The roadmap sets out how Tonga will pursue alternative energy sources (including solar and wind) and energy efficiency measures to reduce its reliance on imported fuel. Similar support is being provided to the Republic of the Marshall Islands as the country is dependent on imported oil, which accounts for about 90 per cent of its national energy supply.

Improved Economic Governance

Australia assists PNG to build accountable and transparent government, and to implement governance, anti-fraud and anti-corruption activities. Training has been delivered to 2860 PNG public servants to build capacity in public sector skills, including basic training in core public administration competencies such as record

keeping, time management and staff supervision. In addition, Australia's support for the implementation of intergovernmental financing reforms has helped result in more funding for the delivery of key services to provinces (20 per cent more in 2011 compared with 2010).

In Solomon Islands, Australian assistance has contributed significantly to a more positive development environment including renewed private sector activity and greater confidence in the future. The Solomon Islands Government has improved its budget processes, is now meeting its debt obligations and has increased revenue collection from SBD 589 million in 2007 to over SBD 1 billion in 2010 – a notable milestone in the history of the nation. Significant improvements in key service delivery areas such as health and education are beginning to flow from these efforts.

Improving economic governance is having a real impact across the region. In Kiribati for example, Australian support has seen the country address illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. New fisheries legislation and guidelines were introduced in 2010, including stronger penalties to deter illegal fishing. This will result in increased revenue flows from fisheries resources. Similar support to has led to institutional reform of the Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority which has seen a seven per cent increase in fisheries revenue in 2009-10.

Another example is our support to strengthen taxation compliance and staff capacity in the Federated States of Micronesia that contributed to an increase in revenue of approximately 15 per cent in the 2009-10 financial year.

Question No. 19

Senator Kroger asked on notice.

RAMSI PEOPLES SURVEY (CN 348991):

1. What do you expect to achieve with this project?
2. How many people will conduct the survey and will be employed by the project?
3. How many local citizens are expected to participate in the survey?
4. Will the survey be published? When?

Answer

1. The People's Survey was introduced by RAMSI in 2006 as an annual information gathering mechanism to gauge the effectiveness and public acceptance of RAMSI's interventions. The People's Survey provides valuable information that is integrated into the RAMSI Annual Performance Report to the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) each year, and also informs the planning and decision making processes within RAMSI programs and the Solomon Islands government. The survey particularly assists in validating implementation progress against the Solomon Islands-RAMSI Partnership Framework, which is the key mechanism used by the PIF to assess RAMSI performance on an annual basis.

The process of conducting the People's Survey each year also builds both the individual capacity of facilitators and enumerators in the Solomon Islands and the institutional capacity of the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office.

2. Number of people employed by the project: Four people were employed through ANU Enterprise (ANUE). ANUE then subcontracted a team of Solomon Island nationals on a temporary and part-time basis to conduct the fieldwork in-country.
3. Number of people conducting the Survey: 72 interviewers and facilitators conducted the survey across the Solomons Islands archipelago. 4939 local citizens participated in the 2010 People's Survey.
4. The People's Survey was published in April 2011. For full details refer to: www.ramsi.org/media/news/peoples-survey-documents-progress-in-solomon-islands.html

Question No. 20

Senator Kroger asked on notice.

Does AusAID have any knowledge on how many NGOs currently provide aid in PNG?

Answer:

AusAID is not able to specify exactly how many NGOs are providing aid in PNG.

Question No. 21

Senator Kroger asked on notice.

Does AusAID use NGOs for aid distribution in PNG? Please provide further details and name the top ten NGOs AusAID is working with locally.

Answer:

Yes, AusAID uses NGOs for aid distribution in PNG. AusAID funds NGOs in PNG as they are important providers of services to, and advocates for, communities throughout PNG. The top ten NGOs AusAID works with locally, according to 2011 levels of funding in Australian Dollars, are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Clinton Foundation | \$5,532,000 |
| 2. Save the Children PNG | \$2,572,000 |
| 3. Family Health International | \$1,957,500 |
| 4. International Education Agency | \$1,895,000 |
| 5. Volunteers Service Organisation | \$1,757,000 |
| 6. Anglicare StopAIDS | \$1,706,000 |
| 7. CARE Australia | \$1,095,715 |
| 8. World Vision | \$513,593 |
| 9. Catholic Diocesan HIV Program | \$500,000 |
| 10. Appropriate Technologies Projects | \$446,000 |

Question No. 22

Senator Kroger asked on notice.

1. Regarding the Specialist Paediatrician at Vila Central Hospital contract for 2011-2013 (AusTENDER CN 365777) has this specialist taken up the role?
2. If so by whom and what was the selection process?
3. Can you advise on similar appointments / tenders in the Pacific region?

Answer:

1. Yes. This specialist started in the role on 2 April 2011.
2. The Pacific Technical Assistance Mechanism (PacTAM) was used to source the specialist Paediatrician, however for privacy reasons AusAID prefers not to name the specialist.

PacTAM is an Australian Government initiative that responds to requests for technical assistance from Pacific governments. The position description and selection criteria for the paediatrician was provided by the Vanuatu Ministry of Health and the recruitment was undertaken through PacTAM at the Government's request.

Australian Volunteers International (AVI) manages PacTAM and advertises internationally through a variety of media and networks for the position. Standard PacTAM recruitment processes were followed for the recruitment of Dr Asuo. PacTAM recruitment processes involved applicants being shortlisted against selection criteria, then interviewed by AVI's Recruitment Specialists, the PACTAM in-country co-ordinator, a relevant technical specialist and a representative from the counterpart government - in this case the Vanuatu Ministry of Health, which, due to competing priorities was unable to participate in the interview process. In the interviews candidates are assessed on their technical suitability for the position, their adaptability and suitability to work in a cross cultural environment. Based on these processes, interviewers then recommend the most suitable candidate for the position. Candidates are endorsed by AusAID and the counterpart government.

3. PacTAM is managing and deploying a range of medical specialists to Vanuatu and to other Pacific countries. Deployments assist Pacific countries to access specialist medical expertise which is otherwise unavailable. For example, five other medical specialists are currently deployed in Vanuatu including a senior surgeon, anaesthetist, gynaecologist/obstetrician, health supply logistician and a biomedical engineer (shared with Solomon Islands). In addition to the specialist roles these people are fulfilling, they provide mentoring and training for ni-Vanuatu doctors studying in those fields.

Since 2010, a biomedical engineer has been deployed to Nauru (shared with Kiribati and Tuvalu). Two surgeons and a biomedical engineer (shared with Samoa and Cook Islands) have also been deployed to Tonga.

These specialist deployments are also provided through other means. For example, AusAID is providing funds for the recruitment of two obstetricians in Papua New Guinea (PNG). The initial recruitment (5.5 months) has been undertaken by a managing contractor, Jane Thomason and Associates through the Capacity Building Service Centre, a facility which provides targeted technical support, on request from the Government of PNG, to its health sector.

Through the Pacific Regional Blindness Prevention Program (jointly funded by AusAID and the New Zealand Aid Program) AusAID provides funding for two ophthalmologists at the Pacific Eye Institute in Fiji and one ophthalmologist in

Papua New Guinea. The recruitment and engagement of these specialists is managed by Fred Hollows Foundation New Zealand, the implementing contractor for this initiative. Since 1995, AusAID has funded the Pacific Islands Project which supports volunteer medical clinicians to travel to the region to provide specialist clinical services (primarily surgery) that would otherwise be unavailable to people in Pacific Island countries. This project has been managed by The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) since its inception.

Question No. 23

Senator Kroger asked on notice (page 103 - 104).

1. A number of advisory positions have been cut from each nation state program. From which sectors were each of these positions cut?
2. What was the broad salary range of each of these advisers?

Answer:

Table 1 below provides a sectoral breakdown of the 257 adviser positions which have been identified to be phased out over the next two years.

Table 1: Joint Adviser Review – Positions being phased out by country and sector

	PNG	East Timor	Cambodia	Philippines	Indonesia	Tonga	Vanuatu	Vietnam	Kiribati	Naru	North Pacific	Total
Governance	45	6	-	-	2	5	1	1	1	-	-	61
Law and Justice	34	11	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59
Health	54	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	60
Infrastructure	11	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Education	15	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	29
Rural D'ment & Environment	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	23
Humanitarian	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cross-cutting	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	181	29	14	13	5	5	5	2	1	1	1	257

Table 2 provides average sectoral remuneration for commercially contracted advisers over the period 1 July – 31 December 2010. The data used in Table 2 includes both expatriate advisers and advisers that are national of the country in which they work.

Table 2: Average adviser remuneration by sector

	Average Monthly Salary	Average Monthly Allowances	Average Monthly Remuneration
Governance (including Law and Justice)	\$11,867	\$4,459	\$16,326
Health	\$8,571	\$3,352	\$11,869
Infrastructure	\$8,032	\$3,922	\$11,954

Education	\$12,383	\$1,736	\$14,119
Rural Development and Environment	\$11,338	\$2,392	\$11,954
Humanitarian	\$11,753	\$295	\$12,048

In February 2011 AusAID put in place an Adviser Remuneration framework for all commercially contracted advisers. The Framework, which has been benchmarked internationally, will

- ensure a consistent and market-based approach to remunerating advisers
- establish a ceiling on the fees advisers can be paid, which is clearly linked to the technical expertise and level of responsibility
- provide greater emphasis on performance assessments to ensure advisers are cost effective and represent value for money.

Question No. 24

Senator Kroger asked on notice.

Soccer projects:

1. Can you please provide a full project of soccer related projects (partially or fully) funded by AusAID for a) the Pacific Region (including Australia and New Zealand), b) Africa and c) the rest of the world?
2. Can you please provide this breakdown for the years 2010, 2009, 2008, and 2007? Please include value of funding, project description and which partner organisation received the funding.
3. Can you indicate if AusAID will support soccer related projects in the forward estimates? Please provide further details.

Answer:

1 a) Pacific Sports Partnership (PSP): Football (Soccer) Partnership: In August 2009, at the Pacific Islands Forum, former Prime Minister Rudd announced a broad package (\$26 million) of assistance to achieve development outcomes through sport and to strengthen sporting cooperation with the Pacific. Within this, the Pacific Sports Partnerships program (\$15 million over 5 years) will establish and support partnerships between the Australian Government and Australian, regional and Pacific island sports organisations. The PSP covers a range of sports including football as well as netball, rugby league, rugby union and cricket.

Under a Partnership Agreement (part of the PSP) between the Australian Government, Football Federation Australia (FFA) and Oceania Football Confederation (OFC), AusAID is providing \$4 million over 3 years (2010-2012). The funds will assist the OFC deliver football-based activities that promote girls' roles, healthier lifestyles and the value of education for 6-12 year old school students in nine Pacific island countries.

The first program under this partnership (*Just Play*) commenced in 2010 with more than 4,560 boys and girls aged 6-12 years, in over 60 schools in four countries (Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands) participating.

Australian Sports Outreach Program (ASOP) Pacific Sport Development (PSD) Grants: ASOP PSD Grants have been provided to three football-related projects since 2007 (further information is provided in response to question 2, below). Football-related projects are not specifically targeted. Rather, funding is awarded following an open, competitive selection process where applications are assessed against community development criteria.

- 1 b) ASOP Africa: The ASOP Africa Program concludes on 30 June 2011. Funds have been provided to clubs for a range of sports-based activities. There are no specifically-funded football programs or formal links to local, regional or national football bodies. Active Community Clubs in South Africa, Swaziland and Botswana choose the sports they wish to play. While football is played at all clubs and is the most popular activity, it is just one of many sport activities played in each club.

1 GOAL – Education for All: The 1 GOAL campaign was launched in October 2009 in the UK, South Africa, Spain, Holland, France, Australia and Ghana. 1 GOAL used international footballers and celebrities as ambassadors and spokespeople to encourage families to send their children, especially daughters, to school and leaders to prioritise funding for education. The Australian Government supported 1 GOAL as part of its commitment to the achievement of the MDGs and to raise awareness of education in developing countries among the Australian community. AusAID provided \$420,000 to the 1 GOAL campaign (\$150,000 to the Global Campaign for Education and \$270,000 to ActionAid Australia). Australia's funding for 1 GOAL has now ended.

- 1 c) From July 2006- June 2011 ASOP has provided approximately \$500 000 per year to a program that provides small grants (up to \$20,000) for smaller community-driven sports activities predominantly in Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Grant funding supports smaller projects which will help to build the capacity of committed local partners, promote sustained increases in sport-related participation, and contribute to improved leadership, health promotion and social cohesion. The participation of a wide range of community members in sport is encouraged, especially those traditionally marginalised because of gender, age, disability or geography.

ASOP Rest of the World Grants have funded 18 football-related projects since 2007 in this region (further information is provided in response to question 2, below).

2. Can you please provide this breakdown for the years 2010, 2009, 2008, and 2007?

Please include value of funding, project description and which partner organisation received the funding

Year	Region/Country	Funding Scheme	Amount	Partner	Project description
2010-11	Pacific	Pacific Sports Partnerships Football Partnership	\$1.2m allocation (\$606,000 for <i>Just Play</i> and the Pacific Youth and Sports Conference).	Football Federation Australia and Oceania Football Confederation	Football-based activities designed to promote girls' roles, healthier lifestyles and the value of education.
2010-11	Pacific (Federated States of Micronesia)	ASOP Pacific Sport Development Grant	\$10,000	Federated States of Micronesia Football Association	School and community based football programs.
2010-11	Cambodia	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$15,000	Indochina Starfish Foundation	A football training program for 2,500 children in orphanages in Phnom Penh.
2010-11	Cameroon	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$15,000	Association for the Social Integration of Disadvantaged Children	A 12 week youth community football tournament series covering five suburbs in Yaounde, plus five rural areas in Cameroon.
2010-11	Namibia	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$18,000	Namibia Football Association	A "galz & goals" women's football program.

2010-11	Pakistan	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$18,000	Pakistan Football Federation	A youth football and pitch development program in selected rural regions in Pakistan.
2010-11	Zambia	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$15,000	The Community Youth Sport Association (other partner organisations involved)	Health awareness and promotion through community football activities. Workshops were conducted in eight residential areas for 600+ youths aged 10-19.
2009-10	Africa	Grant	\$420,000	\$150,000 to the Global Campaign for Education and \$270,000 to ActionAid Australia	The <i>I GOAL</i> campaign used international footballers and celebrities as ambassadors and spokespeople to encourage families to send their children, especially daughters, to school and leaders to prioritise funding for education.
2009-10	Cameroon	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$17,000	The Social Integration of Disadvantaged Children Organisation and University of New South Wales	Football activities to help personal development of disadvantaged children. Programs were run in five rural locations. Funding was used to train volunteers and provide equipment.

2009-10	Zambia	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$10,000	Community Youth Sport Association	Health awareness and promotion through community football activities. Workshops were conducted in six residential areas for 400+ youths aged 10-19 (partner organisations involved).
2009-10	Cambodia	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$15,000	Special Olympics (Cambodia)	To promote knowledge and participation and develop coaches for athletics, football and bocce, and for a clinic and a competition for intellectually disabled athletes.
2008-09	East Timor	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$4,500	Ulmera Village Council	To repair an existing community football field, build a new volleyball field, and provide uniforms and equipment.
2008-09	East Timor	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$5,000	Klibur Domin (a health care facility)	Renovate an existing football field and volleyball court, and include access for wheelchairs.
2008-09	India	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$3,736	Youth Football Club (Rurka Kalan)	To produce junior coaching material in local Punjabi language for players and local coaches who do not speak English (25 schools in rural Punjab).
2008-09	Zambia	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$4,000	Community Youth Sport Association	Health awareness and promotion through community football activities.
2007-08	Solomon Islands	ASOP Pacific Sport Development Grant	\$2,332	Highlands Futsal Association	Futsal equipment and accessories for communities in South Malaita.

2007-08	Solomon Islands	ASOP Pacific Sport Development Grant	\$10,000	Solomon Islands Sports Coalition	Training of futsal coaches and referees in four provinces in Solomon Islands.
2007-08	Bangladesh	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$10,000	Bangladesh Sports Foundation	Three day under-12 years football festival for children from schools that do not normally have the opportunity to participate in sport.
2007-08	Cambodia	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$15,140	Football Federation of Cambodia	Five day coaching seminar for 25 coaches and 50 players to target youth especially at the provincial level.
2007-08	East Timor	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$13,000	Oanukanu Nita Eceremu	To build a community football field in Mehara village in District Lautem with the help of the local authority, the village council, youth, the church and the traditional elders.
2007-08	East Timor	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$3,400	ORSOCOTIL (an East Timor Community Solidarity Organisation)	To build community football and volleyball facilities in Motaulun District.
2007-08	Uganda	ASOP Sport Development Grant	\$13,120	Kids League	Assist the Kids League work with community organisations to deliver football activities for approximately 200 children.

3. AusAID has no specific allocation for football-related projects in the forward estimates. Based on past experience and the high level of interest in the code, we expect to fund some football-related activities in the future. These will be determined through the course of existing aid program grant and program design processes.

AusAID ensures that internationally agreed development principles guide the design of all of Australia's Development-Through-Sport assistance. Football is only used where it is considered the most appropriate sport to act as the vehicle for development.

Future funding for football-related development assistance would depend on the demand from targeted communities and the extent to which previous football-based activities have delivered development outcomes.

African Development-Through-Sport Program: In July 2010 the former Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr Smith) agreed to a new African Development-Through-Sport program (\$4 million over 4 years). The Africa Development-Through-Sport Program is still in early stages of planning and will commence in 2011-12. Given football's popularity in the region, it is likely to be considered as one of a number of vehicles to maximise development outcomes under the program.

Question No. 25

Senator Kroger asked on notice.

Can you please provide an update on the status of the cholera outbreak in Haiti?

Answer:

The Haiti Ministry of Health confirmed an outbreak of cholera on 21 October 2010. Since its emergence, the disease has spread to all 10 of Haiti's administrative regions. Latest figures from the Haiti Ministry of Health (as at 25 February 2011) report 4,627 fatalities, 133,921 hospitalisations and 248,442 cases. There is now a steady decline in the daily number of new cases and in the fatality rate although localised outbreaks continue to affect remote and hard-to-reach communities.

Australia responded quickly (17 November 2010) by providing AUD \$1 million through the United Nations Children's Fund, which is providing clean water, hygiene kits, water purification tablets and other essential life-saving supplies to communities in Haiti.

Question No. 26

Senator Trood asked on notice (page 109).

An article by Robert Cannon was published in *The Australian* in early January 2011 about aid and the education sector in Indonesia. What is AusAID's response to this article and to the points that Mr Cannon has made in it?

Answer:

Mr Cannon was critical of funding further school construction and queried how new schools would be maintained in Indonesia

Australia and Indonesia have had a successful partnership through the \$387 million Basic Education Program (2005-2010) under which the governments of Australia and Indonesia working with local communities built 2075 schools. This new education partnership, including further school construction by communities, builds on this success. The design (available on AusAID's website), is based on evidence of the last five years of working in the sector. Indonesia has assessed it needs 4700 more schools over the next five years to meet demand for junior secondary school places, and asked Australia for funding assistance in order to close access gaps in disadvantaged areas more quickly. The community-based school construction model used by Australia and Indonesia helps to manage the risk of poor maintenance through local capacity and ownership – this construction model also provides school communities with the incentive and motivation to contribute to the ongoing maintenance of the school. Future Australian support to schools and district governments will also help to improve school-based management so Indonesian Government funds available to schools are better allocated, including for maintenance.

Mr Cannon expressed concern about levels of corruption in Indonesia and the risk of Australia using Indonesian Government systems to disburse the funds

The new education partnership includes mechanisms to safeguard Australian funds as well as promote transparency in Indonesia's education system. A high-level oversight group with representation from both Governments will review financial and performance reporting. Further, a Managing Contractor will provide independent oversight and monitoring of Australian funds flows, including provision of highly skilled advisors to work with Indonesia to improve monitoring, procurement and financial management capacity based on assessment of need. Australia will also support the Government of Indonesia to improve its complaints handling system so communities can better hold decision makers to account – this system under the previous education program, demonstrated that fiduciary controls work.

Experts on aid, foreign policy and Indonesia – including Marc Purcell, Executive Director of the Australia Council for International Development, Damien Kingsbury, Chair of International and Political Studies at Deakin University, Greg Fealy, Professor Indonesian studies, Australia National University, and Tim Lindsey, Director, Asian Law School, Melbourne University – have since expressed their strong support for this partnership.

All relevant information is available on AusAID's website at:
www.aid.gov.au/country/indonesia/educationqanda.cfm

Question No. 27

Senator Trood asked on notice.

What has AusAID done to increase engagement with China and its aid program in the Pacific?

Answer:

In the Australia-China Joint Statement of 30 October 2009, both countries acknowledged the importance of enhanced dialogue and coordination on matters concerning Pacific island countries and the key role of the Pacific Islands Forum. Consistent with the Joint Statement, Australia and China maintain a dialogue on development coordination in the Pacific, with frequent bilateral talks on Pacific issues. In 2009, AusAID held two aid effectiveness workshops with China's Ministry of Commerce and discussed the importance of development coordination. Australia also engages with China on development coordination in the Pacific in the annual Pacific Islands Forum Post Forum Dialogue meeting of development partners and Pacific island countries. Australia welcomed China's attendance at the 2011 Pacific Islands Forum Cairns Compact Regional Workshop on Strengthening Development Coordination.

Question No. 28

Senator Trood asked on notice.

How does DFAT see China's expanding role in terms of development in the region?

Answer:

Australia welcomes assistance by international development partners, including China, to assist the Pacific region meet the Millennium Development Goals and raise living standards. To maximise results, the Australian Government strongly encourages the delivery of this assistance to be in accordance with international best practice, including the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action. We also encourage all development partners, including China, to align development activities with Pacific island countries' national and regional development strategies.

Question No. 29

Could AusAID provide all background information known to it about the organisation gunpolicy.org, the rationale for the grant and all funding details.

Answer:

Funding details

In the 2009-10 financial year \$50,000 was provided to the GunPolicy.org website to support the expansion of the 'Global Armed Violence Web Knowledge Base.'

Rationale for Australian Government Support

Armed violence, including death and intimidation by armed groups, erodes governance norms and legitimacy, fractures societies and leads to population displacement in developing countries. Recognising the significant relationship between conflicts, the proliferation of illicit firearms and achieving basic human security, the aid program supports activities that reduce armed violence. As part of Australia's obligations to assist other states in their implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA), in 2010 AusAID supported the GunPolicy.org website as an evidence-based, country-by-country resource for stakeholders wishing to assess legislative frameworks and firearm statistics for countries across various regions.

The 'Global Armed Violence Web Knowledge Base' was launched at the Fourth Biannual Meeting of States (BMS4) of the UNPoA created under resolution 56/24 V, by the General Assembly in 2001. The goal of the website was to make Oceania and South East Asia the most up-to-date and best documented regions on a single resource at the website's launch during BMS4. The proposal ([Attachment 1](#)) represented twenty percent of the website's provisional project budget. Since AusAID's contribution, the Swiss and Dutch governments have come onboard as funders of the website.

Specifically, the site provided:

- Country-by-country comparisons of gun owner licensing, registration of small arms, background checks, and public health interventions in place, such as domestic violence provisions.
- Country-by-country comparisons of small arms-related death, injury and gun crime data, regularly updated as each nation releases its periodic public health and justice statistics.
- Evidence to balance claims of 'crime waves' in the wake of tightened small arms legislation in Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada and Brazil, among others.

Prior to confirming funding AusAID requested feedback from other Government Agencies and both DFAT and the Drugs and Firearms Section at the Attorney General's Department replied in support of the website due to the considerable potential it represented as a resource.

Global Armed Violence Web Knowledge Base

Funding Application (AUD\$50,000)

to the

AusAID Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation and Recovery Group

The Need

The Web is littered with unsourced, often unreliable armed violence prevention and small arms-related policy information. Although a number of institutions and advocacy groups do provide accurate, sourced material for their own localities or areas of interest, the average Web searcher can find these difficult to sift, select and compare. This is especially true in regard to various United Nations initiatives, UNPoA implementation and current practice compared to other Member States.

The need identified by **GunPolicy.org**, a project currently hosted *pro bono* at the Sydney School of Public Health, is to provide an international, evidence-based and carefully sourced Web information service which, by virtue of its position within the academy and limited links to advocacy, generates the trust required to ensure rapid uptake of the material provided.

The aims of this project are **global**. They include:

- **Monitoring** progress and 'best practice' using only evidence-based data, with no added opinion
- **Measuring** and publishing key indicators, problem areas, interventions, failures and successes
- **Comparing** the current status and progress of 300 jurisdictions, first in Oceania and SE Asia
- **Providing** reliable, accessible information for governments, civil society and news media

The Applicant

Since 1997, the non-partisan resource hub **GunPolicy.org** has delivered small arms policy-related news to a global audience on a daily basis. These fill the 'Gun Policy News' components of our current site.

More recently, we accepted the challenge of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to provide evidence-based 'measurability' indicators to inform and support implementation of the UN small arms Programme of Action (UNPoA). These new features, due to be unveiled at the UN in June, make up the 'Facts' section of our much-expanded, and as-yet-unpublished web site. To date these include 40 detailed, narrative Country Pages, plus Data Pages for more than 260 jurisdictions around the globe.

On our own initiative, the **GunPolicy.org** team now adds 'comparability' between UN Member States as a central feature of our contribution to UNPoA implementation and monitoring mechanisms.

This resource draws advocates together at the nexus between armed violence reduction, firearm injury prevention, community development, public health, conflict prevention, human rights and conventional arms reduction. In collaboration with a range of leading information providers, **GunPolicy.org** supports global efforts to reduce armed violence, as promoted by the United Nations and the Geneva Declaration.

Track Record

Philip Alpers has participated in each major conference related to the global United Nations campaign to reduce gun violence since 1997, often as NGO representative on a government delegation. In 1999, he led a successful campaign to persuade the International Olympic Committee to roll back plans for combat shooting as an Olympic exhibition sport. Following several years' work on firearm injury prevention in the United States and a two-year appointment as Senior Fellow to the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, Philip's published field work on gun-running in Papua New Guinea and Oceania established him as a specialist on small arms trafficking and firearm regulation in the Pacific.

London-based research director Marcus Wilson joined **GunPolicy.org** full-time in August 2008.

Contribution

A core-support contribution of AUD\$50,000 towards our programme of work is requested from AusAID. This represents 15% of our provisional budget for 2010-11, or nearly 20% of our current budget shortfall.

Deliverables

This proposal seeks funding to:

- 1) Rapidly update our existing Web site Country Pages on 40 nations across the Pacific and South East Asia. These Country Pages are already written in draft form, but many rely on dated information. Most are informed by research conducted by several authors in 2002-2005, but some still rely on data from a 1999 UN survey. Accordingly, we will ensure that the Country Pages for our two nearest regions are as up-to-date as possible before the Web site is launched at the Fourth UN small arms Biennial Meeting of States (BMS4) in June. By making Oceania and South East Asia the two best-documented UNPoA regions in the world on a single Web site, we aim to assist and improve national reporting.
- 2) Expand across 300 world jurisdictions our country-by-country data comparisons of UNPoA measurability, implementation and monitoring, including:
 - Clause-by clause parsing of firearm legislation, import/export restrictions and other regulation
 - Small arms stockpiles, gun death, injury and crime, armed violence as a barrier to development
 - Country comparisons of public health interventions in place, such as gun owner licensing, firearm registration, background checks, age limits, domestic violence provisions, etc., etc.
 - Assessments of UNPoA implementation conducted both by Member States and civil society
 - An analysis of the Arms Trade Treaty process, including ATT-related votes as they emerge
 - Extensive sources of evidence-based information for more detailed research and advocacy
- 3) Add to our Web site a centrepiece charting capability to display instantly comprehensible, bar-graph comparisons across all UN Member states and, where appropriate, federal jurisdictions. We anticipate that this will become the most useful, and commonly consulted feature of our Web knowledge base, not just for diplomats and governments, but also for researchers, students and journalists world-wide.
- 4) Support core information-delivery functions. As all **GunPolicy.org** researchers take shifts to compile Gun Policy News feeds, the funds applied for would also subsidise this 13-year-old daily news service.

Other Funding

Funders in Switzerland, the UK and USA have already promised, or indicated the renewal of, grants totalling AUD\$68,000 to support our next 15-month programme of work. Recently spent contributions include AU\$15,000 from AusAID via Oxfam, and AUD\$39,000 from the Small Arms Survey in Geneva.

Although this project currently faces a considerable budget shortfall, we are confident that the Web site expansion made possible in 2010-11 by seed funding from AusAID and others will trigger cascading contributions from additional donors. These include governments and development agencies aiming to assist UNPoA implementation in their own regions of interest in time for the Review Conference in 2012.

An AusAID-supported launch of the **GunPolicy.org** web site at BMS4 in New York would be an opportunity to showcase the project where it matters, and to secure sustaining support from stakeholder governments and development agencies.

On the other hand, by way of risk management, our project of work is also designed to ensure that any serious budget shortfall will slow, but should not prevent the eventual publication of material assembled.

GunPolicy.org Provisional 15-month Budget, 1 April 2010 to 30 June 2011	AUD\$
PHP & HTML programming, database integration and data graphing development	58,008
Contract researcher: full-time research, content writing and site loading (London)	63,545
Contract researcher: full-time research, content writing and site loading (Sydney)	60,242
Principal investigator, research and management, 50% FTE with overheads (Sydney)	92,353
News bulletins: Compile 1800–2000 individual articles and distribute to 340+ RSS news feeds and e-mail lists: 65 weeks, or 363 x 3-hour sessions @\$27/hr (Sydney)	29,403
Database conversion, software licensing, indexing and security interface	12,752
Search fees, text conversion, archive purchase, bandwidth, office and administration	17,130
Projected 15-Month Budget	333,433
Additional Funding (promised or indicated renewals)	
Small Arms Survey, Geneva	22,000
Joyce Foundation, Chicago	22,000
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, York	27,000
International Action Network on Small Arms, London	2,400
Anticipated funding as at April, 2010	73,400
Planned expenditure	333,433
Current shortfall	260,033

Information Partners

In recent years, the **GunPolicy.org** Web site has attracted an impressive array of Information Partners, sampled here →

For more information on each, see www.gunpolicy.org/about.php

Among others who benefit from Gun Policy News are Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Center for Defense Information, States United to Prevent Gun Violence, Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfers, British American Security Information Council and the Federation of American Scientists.

Additional academic institutions using **GunPolicy.org** feeds include the Centre for Gun Policy and Research at Johns Hopkins, the Harvard Injury Control Research Center and the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva.

"GunPolicy.org is unique and indispensable. I use it daily, and rely on it more than any other single resource to keep abreast of significant events, both in the United States and around the world. As a long-time academic researcher and policy advocate in this field, I never write a report without reviewing my GunPolicy files. I am very excited by the site's new features. There is, again, nothing else like it."

- Prof Garen Wintemute, University of California, Davis

Gun Policy News sends daily news bulletins to a wide variety of arms control advocates, including every national gun control organisation and scores of regional groups. Especially in regions where conflict-related armed violence remains a major barrier to human security and development, NGOs make good use of **GunPolicy.org**:

"In Africa, advocates of armed conflict prevention have depended on Gun Policy News for years. Its e-mails, and now its Web site provide daily information, but also ensure that our efforts are heard about by others. Improvements are needed to reach the global south more effectively, and Philip has plans to fill these needs. This is a project which helps arms control campaigners wherever they are."

- Adele Kirsten, former national coordinator, Gun Free South Africa

At key hubs of the international movement to curb the proliferation of small arms, **Gunpolicy.org** is also welcomed as an important component by UN agencies, national institutions and global advocacy groups:

"As the news lifeblood of this campaign, daily bulletins from **GunPolicy.org** are essential morning reading for advocates and governments alike. In 2010, the year of BMS4, **GunPolicy.org** becomes even more important to the global movement to reduce the suffering caused with small arms. We rely on it."

- Rebecca Peters, director, International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA)

This project continues to expand, and to make a real difference to the range of information assets available to armed violence prevention advocates.

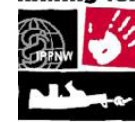


VPRP, UC Davis



IPPNW

Aiming for



Prevention



University of Sydney



SEESAC



GRIP

Brussels



Trauma Foundation

Question No. 30

Senator Xenophon asked on notice.

The United Kingdom has increased its aid budget to 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2013 (scheduled to reach 0.56 per cent this year) and has ring-fenced this commitment from any savings process (despite their difficult economic circumstances following the GFC). In addition, they are enshrining this commitment in law. New Zealand is also reported to be planning a sharp increase in its aid funding in the coming years. Is Australia planning to do the same?

Answer:

Australia, along with the majority of international donors such as New Zealand and the United Kingdom, has made a commitment to significantly increase its overseas development assistance (ODA). In 2010-11, Australia will provide ODA equivalent to 0.33 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI), which is approximately \$4.3 billion. By 2015-16 Australia's ODA is estimated to exceed \$8 billion to meet the Government's commitment of reaching 0.5 per cent of GNI. Currently, there are no plans for Australia to make a statutory commitment to the international target of 0.7 per cent of GNI, similar to the United Kingdom's proposed International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Bill.

Question No. 31

Senator Xenophon asked on notice.

What has been the cost of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands following the 2003 crisis?

Question referred to DFAT for response.

Question No. 32

Senator Xenophon asked on notice.

Increasingly we hear reports of a food crisis in the developing world and the risk this poses to stability in developing nations. Is this a concern in our region?

Answer:

While global rice prices are almost half the 2008 peaks and supplies are sufficient, Indonesia and Bangladesh are experiencing record local prices. East and South East Asia may have been less affected by recent food price increases than other regions, due to their dependence on rice. Governments are implementing policy measures to limit the effect of high prices, ranging from importing more stocks to subsidising food.

AusAID continues to monitor the food security situation in the region. The Australian aid program provides direct support to the most vulnerable through social protection programs and improving small-holder productivity.

Question No. 33

Senator Xenophon asked on notice.

According to the World Bank, in the past seven months an additional 44 million people were pushed into poverty due to rising food prices. What is Australia doing through its aid programs to address food security?

Answer:

Approximately 7 per cent of ODA, or \$292 million, is expected to be spent on food security in 2010-11. Ongoing investments in rural development have been boosted by a four-year \$464 million food security initiative (2009-10 – 2012-13) to increase agricultural productivity, improve rural incomes and provide social protection for the vulnerable.

Australia is contributing \$50 million over four years to the World Bank's Global Agriculture and Food Security Program to support long-term agriculture and food security in low income countries. Australia continues to be actively involved in dialogue with the World Bank and other actors on how best to invest in future initiatives designed to address current and emerging issues in food security.

Through its four-year strategic partnership (2009-2013) with the World Food Programme, the Government contributes \$180 million to provide food assistance to those in need, in addition to responding to emergency needs as they arise. This builds on Australia's contribution to the World Bank's Food Crisis Response Program in 2008, which is being spent in Senegal, Cambodia, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands and Kiribati on social safety net programs for the poor and to stimulate agricultural productivity.

Reform of international markets, including completion of the Doha Round, will improve trade flows, help smooth volatility and improve food security.

Question No. 34

Senator Xenophon asked on notice.

How has AusAID's investment in food security, agriculture and rural development changed since the Rome Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security in 2009?

Answer:

AusAID's investments are aligned with the Rome Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security (November 2009). The Declaration universally endorsed the principles outlined in the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, to which Australia is a signatory.

Question No. 35

Senator Xenophon asked on notice.

Does AusAID have any evidence of the effectiveness of pre-crisis intervention versus post-crisis interventions?

Answer:

Yes. Intervening in fragile, conflict or crisis affected states through partner UN agencies, donors and national governments can assist fragile states to avoid the catastrophic national, regional and international flow on effects of a crisis or state collapse. The World Bank's forthcoming World Development Report on conflict notes that 'the cost of civil war for a medium sized developing country...is equivalent to more than 30 years of GDP.' Paul Collier, an Oxford University Economist, has estimated that a civil war costs the average developing country \$64 billion dollars and has negative economic and social impacts that remain long after the conflict has finished. Intervening before a crisis occurs allows a donor, such as Australia, to focus directly on issues of chronic poor governance, poor service provision and a lack of human security that are prevalent in fragile states and often precipitate crises at a fraction of the cost of rebuilding a state afterwards.

For example, infrastructure plays an important role in post conflict recovery. The ability to provide basic infrastructure services is a very tangible and visible way for governments to demonstrate legitimacy and improve the lives of their citizens, thereby enhancing stability. It also is a quick way of providing employment for youths and former combatants. Improving roads increases mobility and gets produce to markets more efficiently; re-establishing water supply and sanitation facilities improves health and general quality of life; repairing and expanding access to electricity facilitates commercial activity and makes life safer through street lighting etc. As well as these direct benefits infrastructure enables other basic services such as health clinics, schools and law and justice facilities to function.

Humanitarian interventions play a significant role in maintaining the legitimacy of the local national government during a humanitarian crisis by providing greatly needed emergency services and contribute to reducing the risk of a greater crisis.

Question No. 36

Senator Xenophon asked on notice.

What role can multilaterals play in delivering the increase in overseas assistance?

Answer:

Multilaterals play an important part in delivering Australia's overseas assistance and could help to deliver the expected increase in Australia's overseas development assistance.

Australia's engagement with multilateral organisations extends the reach and scope of Australia's country and regional aid programs. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank continue to be central partners for Australia's aid program. The Banks' convening power often allows them to lead donor coordination at country and sectoral levels. Drawing on their technical expertise they undertake innovative sensitive policy issues. The Banks are essential partners for implementing the Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific. In addition, their response to the global economic crisis – through timely analysis, fiscal support and coordination – continues to shape an effective international response that helps developing countries minimise the impact of the crisis.

UN development and humanitarian agencies support Australia's aid program as they tackle global challenges of high priority to Australia, pool resources from many donors which brings advantages of scale as well as lower transaction costs for countries receiving aid and bring donors together to coordinate aid and maximise its impact.

For 2010-11, it is estimated that Australia will spend \$298.3 million in funding for multilateral development bank replenishments, and \$227.8 million in funding for United Nations, Commonwealth and other international organisations. This will include \$157.3 million through the World Bank's International Development Association, \$70.3 million through the Asian Development Bank's Asian Development Fund, \$25.4 million through the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), \$18 million through the World Health Organisation and \$17.9 million through the UN Development Programme.

Question No. 37

Senator Xenophon asked on notice.

What programs being delivered by multilaterals are proving effective?

Answer:

AusAID continually assesses the effectiveness of programs delivered by multilateral organisation by undertaking quality reporting on multilateral programs and activities funded, and through regular dialogue in the field between AusAID posts and multilateral partners regarding co-financed activities. The following programs are examples of successful multilateral programs that Australia supports.

The International Development Association

The International Development Association (IDA) is the arm of the World Bank that assists the world's poorest countries by providing concessionary finance and technical assistance. The World Bank is Australia's largest development partner. Australia provides core funding to IDA, which is not tied to any specific project, activity or region. Australia has committed \$835 million to IDA 16 (2011-14).

Over the last decade, IDA has provided more than 113 million people with access to an improved water source by constructing or rehabilitating almost 500,000 improved community water points, and more than 1.5 million piped household water connections. Also over the last ten years, IDA has financed the demobilization and reintegration of almost 441,000 ex-combatants in eight post-conflict countries. In addition, IDA has created more than 17 million person-days of employment through restoring or providing access to water, roads and other essential infrastructure.

The GAVI Alliance

Australia has contributed \$34 million (2006-10) to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), a global health partnership committed to saving children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing access to immunisation in low-income countries. Since its inception in 2000, the GAVI Alliance has assisted developing countries to immunise more than 288 million children, prevented an estimated 5.4 million future deaths through routine immunisation, and helped raise immunisation rates in poor countries to an unprecedented 80 per cent average. In October 2010, Australia announced a new commitment to GAVI worth \$60 million over three years between 2011 and 2013, which is expected to prevent an estimated 50,000 future deaths through vaccines and immunisation programs.

UNICEF - Maternal mortality decline in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, Australian support has contributed to an unprecedented 40 per cent decline in maternal mortality – helping Bangladesh reach its Millennium Development Goals in this area. Maternal mortality declined from 322 in 2001 to 194 in 2010. The entire decline in the maternal mortality rate has been due to reductions in direct obstetric deaths (e.g. caused by haemorrhage and eclampsia both requiring care at a facility). Australia has significantly contributed to this success by providing \$24.14 million (2007-11) for maternal, neonatal and child health care in several low performing districts through UNICEF and BRAC, a local Bangladeshi NGO. These programs have directly supported increased use of facilities and are providing women with better access to antenatal, emergency obstetric and neonatal care, resulting in dramatic improvements in health outcomes for mothers and their babies.

Question No. 38

Senator Xenophon asked on notice.

Can AusAID update the Committee on the new reporting mechanisms that will provide greater transparency in their Partnerships with multilaterals?

Answer:

The independent review of aid effectiveness is examining whether the current systems, policies and procedures for the aid program maximise effectiveness and efficiency. The review has commissioned a study of AusAID's approach to assessing multilateral effectiveness. This study includes an analysis of AusAID's current reporting and accountability requirements and the quality of information generated through these systems. The study will be included as part of the independent review which has been submitted to the Government.

Currently, AusAID monitors the performance of its multilaterals in several ways:

- Australia has signed partnership frameworks with 12 multilaterals:
 - Asian Development Bank
 - International Labour Organization
 - Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
 - United Nations Children's Fund
 - United Nations Development Fund for Women
 - United Nations Development Programme
 - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
 - United Nations Population Fund
 - World Food Programme
 - World Health Organisation
 - United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat
 - United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
- AusAID analyses assessments and reports from the multilaterals themselves as well as from external bodies. Since early 2009, AusAID has been an active member of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) a group of 16 countries which conducts annual assessments of the organisational effectiveness of different multilaterals;

- At the institutional level, AusAID participates in the management of multilateral Boards and Councils, membership of donor groupings, engagement in replenishment and other funding processes, and regular high level consultations. This is where Australia raises governance, management and operational issues of interest to us;
- AusAID's performance system assesses the quality of activities and their progress against objectives at the three different levels: the individual activity level; the strategy level through annual program performance reports; and evaluations which provide evidence against which to balance self assessments. Multilateral agencies are assessed at both the individual agency level and in their contribution to development outcomes in a particular country or region.