



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Submission to the National Commission of Audit

November 2013

Executive Summary

1. The submission is made on behalf of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), the Australian peak body for non-government organisations (NGOs) working in international aid, development and humanitarian response. ACFID represents 135 Australian not-for-profit organisations that work in more than 100 developing countries. ACFID's membership attracts an annual Australian public supporter base of approximately 2 million Australian households. Currently entering its 50th year, ACFID brings together decades of civil society expertise in international aid and development.
2. International aid and development work is undertaken in extremely complex environments. It requires a range of developed skills, standards and practices to ensure productive results for the intended recipients and to maximise the potential of investments. The expertise gained over 50 years of ACFID's existence has been codified into a Code of Conduct (hereafter, the Code) for the Australian non-governmental aid and development sector. The Code is a self-regulatory framework outlining 150 Principles and Obligations for ACFID Members, as they strive for good practice in their development work. The Code includes annual compliance processes as well as an independent complaints mechanism. A full list of ACFID's Executive Committee and membership is attached at **Annexes A and B**, respectively.
3. This submission is made in relation to the Government's aid program and expenditure of Official Development Assistance (ODA) across the Whole of Government. The National Commission of Audit (hereafter called 'the Commission') Terms of Reference to be addressed will include:

In relation to 'Phase 1' of the Commission:

- The Scope of Government;
- The efficiency and effectiveness of Government expenditure; and,

In relation to 'Phase 2' of the Commission:

- Public sector performance and accountability.

Recommendations

4. The Government should:
 - a. Proceed with commitments to increase ODA, indexed to the consumer price index (CPI) annually;
 - b. Proceed with commitments to increase ODA at a higher rate once the Federal Budget is in surplus, in line with the target of reaching 0.5% gross national income (GNI) towards aid;

- c. Focus the Australian aid program on the necessary pre-conditions for sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation;
- d. Outline a comprehensive guiding statement for the Australian aid program;
- e. Strengthen and maintain a separate budget statement for ODA, with similar reporting requirements for all government departments expending ODA-eligible funds;
- f. Make the Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) independent from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT);
- g. Consider the creation of a Parliamentary Committee or Sub-Committee on Development Assistance; and,
- h. Develop benchmarks for ODA spending in line with international standards of best practice.

Phase 1

Scope of Government

5. In this section we intend to deal with the ongoing relevance of a strong, effective Australian aid program to the scope of the Federal Government.
6. In their *Final Update on Federal Coalition Election Policy Commitments*, issued on 5 September 2013, the Federal Coalition stated that growth in aid would be indexed to CPI.ⁱ
7. Further to this election commitment, the Coalition's Foreign Policy stated that the Coalition will: "consistent with robust benchmarks, remain committed to increasing the foreign aid programme towards 0.5 per cent of gross national income (GNI)."ⁱⁱ
8. ACFID welcomes this commitment to continue to increase Australian ODA. We also note the commitments of Mr Abbott and Mr Hockey to increase aid at a faster rate when the Australian budget is in surplus, with the aim of reaching 0.5% of Australia's GNI towards ODA.ⁱⁱⁱ
9. The savings leveraged over the forward estimates from the above commitments amounted to AU\$4.5 billion, including \$656 million in budget cuts to ODA for the current financial year. These savings made up 10.7% of the total \$42 billion in savings announced prior to the Federal Election.
10. At around \$5 billion after savings measures in the current financial year, Australian ODA makes up approximately 1.4% of the Australian Federal Budget. In this regard, the Government has presently drawn over 10% of projected savings from a comparatively small proportion of federal expenditure.

11. The Hon. Julie Bishop MP expressed the ongoing commitment of the Australian Government to working towards achieving the United Nations' 8 Millennium Development Goals by 2015 during her recent trip to New York. The Foreign Minister has also committed Australia to playing a role in the creation of the next iteration of a global development framework, ensuring common global goals beyond the current 2015 target date.^{iv} Fulfilling these commitments and playing our role responsibly on the global stage requires a strong and focused Australian aid program.
12. "Australia must play a role in assisting developing countries deal with the challenges of development."^v In outlining his White Paper on aid, then Foreign Minister Alexander Downer made clear his view on the importance of federally resourced ODA, outlining both the ethical imperative and national interest case for this area of government spending.
13. In explaining the ethical imperative, Mr Downer outlined the levels of poverty in Australia's direct region and beyond, stating that; "Mass poverty is the single most important economic and social issue on our planet today. The relentless challenge of most countries in the world is to provide their people with the opportunity to meet their basic needs and aspirations."^{vi}
14. In explaining the national interest case, Mr Downer said that; "...in an increasingly globalised world, it is in our self-interest to help. Not to do so would harm our own economy. By promoting growth in developing countries the aid program helps foster stability and expand trade and investment opportunities for Australia. Through aid, we are also addressing many threats to our own prosperity, such as HIV/AIDS, illegal migration, refugee flows, global environment problems and narcotics. Many of these problems need to be dealt with at a global level and Australia must pull its weight internationally."^{vii}
15. An effective and well-resourced aid program remains an essential part of the work of the Australian Federal Government today.
16. The ethical imperative remains clear, with over 2 billion people globally still living on less than US\$2 a day^{viii} and the majority of the world's poor residing in Australia's geographic neighbourhood of Asia and the Pacific.^{ix} Eighteen of Australia's twenty closest neighbours are developing countries and issues such as combatting poor nutrition, lack of education and maternal and child mortality remain vast challenges in our region and beyond.
17. While great gains have been made, there are still 6.6 million children dying each year largely due to causes that are easily preventable or treatable, and millions more children who do not have access to basic education. Economic growth has not yet overcome the need for aid, however it does mean that aid to many middle income countries is increasingly targeted at helping those countries to mobilise their own resources.

18. As a member of the Group of 20 (G20), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the United Nations, it remains essential that Australia invest appropriately, along with our peers, in global efforts towards poverty alleviation.
19. As stated over a decade ago by Mr Downer, there is a national interest case for Australian foreign aid. The Australian aid program creates stability by lifting people out of poverty. It fosters peace and sustainable local economies, making Australia less likely to be drawn in to or threatened by regional conflicts. The work of the Australian aid program also addresses the root causes of refugee flows.
20. In the area of health, a strong official Australian aid program is able to lower the risk of health pandemics entering Australia by assisting health systems, providing vaccines and medical treatment.
21. The Australian economy, now even more so than when Mr Downer spoke of national interest in 1997, is interconnected with Asia, the Pacific and the globe. In a global economy, the success of Australian businesses and investments depends on the strength, stability and health of the nations with which we work.
22. Asia is home to some of the world's fastest growing economies. This growth, however, continues to leave large swathes of people living in poverty. To realise the maximum potential of human capital for increasing productivity and driving additional growth, we must target appropriate levels of Australian investment in the necessary pre-conditions for sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation. These pre-conditions include peace and security, health, education, rule of law, social policy and protection, as well as environmental sustainability.
23. The Australian aid program has an essential role to play in promoting sustainable growth and stability, working with partner nations to secure the pre-conditions necessary for such growth and moving these vast populations towards greater prosperity.
24. In sum, an official Australian aid program remains an important part of the work and scope of the Federal Government. A strong Australian aid program focused on the pre-conditions for poverty alleviation for the most vulnerable and those as-yet unreached by the benefits of economic growth, is firmly in Australia's national and economic interest. Moreover, it fulfils an ethical imperative and is part of Australia's international obligations, given our role as a peer amongst the most successful global economies.
25. We note that both the Australian not-for-profit and private sectors have important roles to play in delivering Australian aid and in international development policy dialogues. The Australian aid and development non-government organisation (NGO) sector, for example, mobilised over AU\$1 billion for international development in the 2011-12 financial year from private donations and sources other than the Australian Government.^x This is a significant sum. However, the good work of the not-for-profit

and private sectors cannot replace the imperative for a strong Australian Government investment in ODA.

26. We encourage the Government to seek further ways to partner with both the not-for-profit and private sectors. We believe this will have the highest impact on delivering the pre-conditions for poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth, in the interests of all.

Efficiency and effectiveness of Government Expenditure

27. This section will deal with the levels of Australian expenditure of ODA.

28. As noted in points 9-10, over 10% of current savings have been drawn from ODA, although ODA currently comprises around 1.4% of total Government spending. Drawing further savings from the remaining pool of ODA would not result in a significant impact on the budget bottom line.

29. Moreover, it would likely necessitate further significant renegotiations of agreements and commitments with bilateral country partners, NGOs and multilateral organisations. As well as delaying results on the ground, such a decision could have the effect of causing stress in Australia's relationships with these partners and so is unlikely to be in our national and diplomatic interests. The OECD noted in the 2013 Peer Review of Australia's aid program that "significant in-year budget re-allocations put at risk Australia's commitments to its partners as well as achieving the expected results of its development cooperation programmes."^{xi}

30. As noted at point 18, Australia is a member of the G20 as well as the OECD. In particular, ODA giving is most often measured through the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), of which we are also a member. Australia's annual development assistance has traditionally lagged behind the average effort of other OECD DAC donor countries as a percentage of GNI.^{xii}

31. Our OECD DAC ranking in 2012 was thirteenth out of its 24 member economies, based on the ratio of aid to GNI.^{xiii} The OECD noted this year that the medium-term outlook for the Australian economy is good and Australia's public finances are in good shape compared to those of other OECD countries. In this context, they recommended that Australia continue to increase our development assistance.^{xiv} Given the comparative strength of the Australian economy, it remains important that the Australian Government delivers ODA on a similar footing to our peers.

32. Australia's aid spend can achieve remarkable impact, reach and value for money. There is arguably no area of Australian Government spending that is able to yield higher results than well-targeted ODA. Money spent on vaccinations, for example, not only saves the lives of children and adults but is also estimated to yield an 18% return on investment for developing country economies by lowering the disease burden and increasing productive years of life.^{xv} Similarly, for every US\$1 invested in water,

sanitation and hygiene education and projects, it is estimated that there is an economic return of US\$4.^{xvi} Investments as small as AU\$3 can provide a birthing kit for women in rural locations, where there is no other assistance available.^{xvii} Such interventions save and drastically improve people's lives, as well as resulting in significant ongoing national and economic benefits.

33. In 2011-12 Australia's aid program ensured that, amongst other results, more than 2 million children were immunised, 2.5 million extra people had improved access to safe drinking water, over 1 million more children were enrolled in school and over 7000 law and justice officials were trained. The program also provided lifesaving assistance to over 16.5 million people in emergency and conflict situations.^{xviii} These are significant results from just over 1% of federal expenditure.
34. One measure of the impact of aid has been the decline in child deaths. Globally child deaths have almost halved from over 12 million in 1990 to 6.6 million in 2012.^{xix} Aid in the form of new health technologies, vaccines, medicines and support for health systems has been critical to this success which has been achieved not just in those countries with high GDP growth but in almost all developing countries.^{xx}
35. These results have been backed up by independent assessments of Australia's ability to deliver effective, well-targeted aid. The 2013 OECD DAC Peer Review of Australian aid found that "Australia's aid system is set up to deliver the current and a growing aid programme effectively."^{xxi} Noting the current process of integration of the former AusAID into DFAT, this independent analysis tells us that there is much that can be built on to create a world-class, united department for foreign affairs, aid and trade - which will be able to deliver highly effective aid programs.
36. The individual, community, national and economic benefits of aid are further bolstered by the soft diplomacy within our region that is supported by Australian ODA.
37. To conclude, there is limited scope to leverage further savings from small pool of Australian ODA, which has already shouldered 10.7% of current savings measures. Moreover, well targeted aid is an effective spend and represents significant value for money for Australia.

Phase 2:

Public sector performance and accountability

38. This section will offer four proposals to increase independent and credible scrutiny over the Australian aid program, as well as proposing a starting point for the development of performance targets and benchmarks in relation to ODA.

Increasing independent and credible scrutiny

39. A comprehensive statement on Australian aid should be developed. Such a statement could guide the allocation of funding within the ODA budget, as well as allowing independent scrutiny as to whether the aid program is meeting its set objectives.
40. The Howard Government developed a White Paper on Development Assistance in order to guide aid programming and budgetary decisions.^{xxii} While ACFID does not believe such a major undertaking as a White Paper or Independent Review is necessary at this time, a comprehensive statement on Australia's ODA could elaborate on the interaction between the poverty alleviation focus of aid with trade and foreign policy objectives; the intersection of economic growth with sustainable human development, and; the geographic and thematic focus of Australia's aid.
41. A separate budget statement for Australian ODA should be maintained. As the Government deliberates over the mechanics of integrating the former AusAID into DFAT, a decision should be made to maintain a separate, independent annual budget statement (or "book") on the allocations of Australian ODA.
42. As the Commission will be aware, a range of government departments (including the former AusAID, now DFAT) manage components of Australia's ODA spend. Maintaining a separate budget statement covering each department's ODA allocation as well as the country, regional, thematic and global programs that form part of Australia's annual ODA will allow the program to continue to be independently scrutinised. In conjunction with a comprehensive statement on ODA, such a budget statement would allow the Government to show how the aid program is meeting its overall objectives.
43. Requiring other government departments that expend ODA-eligible funds to report in this separate budget statement against the same requirements and standards as DFAT on a country, regional, thematic and global basis would also greatly enhance transparency. Such a change would bolster Australian efforts in relation to meeting our obligations under the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), which is designed to enhance aid effectiveness and accountability.^{xxiii}
44. The Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) should be given independent status and report directly to Parliament. The role of ODE is to monitor the performance of the Australian aid program, evaluate its impact and contribute to international evidence and debate about aid and development effectiveness.^{xxiv}
45. Elevating the role of ODE and separating this function out of the internal structure of DFAT would bolster its capacity to offer independent and credible scrutiny of Australia's whole of government aid spend.
46. A Parliamentary Committee or Sub-Committee on Development Assistance should be established. A recent discussion paper by the Australian National University's

Development Policy Centre explored in detail the possible benefits of establishing such a committee.^{xxv} As noted by the discussion paper, there is similar structured oversight of aid programs through parliaments in the UK, Canada and Germany. The Committee could focus on reviews and evaluations of Australian ODA, ensuring that the recommendations of such reviews are acted upon.

47. Building on point 44 above, consideration could be given to such a Committee having oversight of the ODE.

Performance targets and benchmarks

48. The Government has rightly focused on the importance of benchmarks to measure the success of Australian ODA.

49. The 2011 Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness recommended that the aid program develop benchmarks and hurdles that would determine the results being achieved by various programs and initiatives, as well as their subsequent funding.^{xxvi} Over the last two years the aid program has been working to achieve these hurdles and it has recently been assessed very positively under the OECD peer review process.^{xxvii}

50. However further reforms would be beneficial. Current international standards and best practice must be the foundation for the development of benchmarks in relation to Australian aid. The benchmarks we strive to achieve, in other words, should be developed with the end-goal of creating a gold-standard aid program that adheres to and models global best practice.

51. As noted in point 2, international development work is undertaken in extremely complex environments. It requires specific knowledge of best development practice and without this can put people and communities at risk.

52. Standards such as the internationally agreed Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for Action and Busan Partnership Document,^{xxviii} for example, must be taken into account if the Government is to develop benchmarks based on best practice in international aid.

53. One of the principles supported through these international agreements is local ownership. One starting point for the development of benchmarks for Australian aid should therefore be that the aid program takes account of, and listen to, the voices of the poorest - as they are enabled to move from poverty to opportunity.

Concluding Remarks

54. An effective, well-targeted Australian aid program is an essential part of the work of the Australian Federal Government. The Australian ODA spend is in our national interest and helps to improve the lives of millions of people.

55. There is minimal scope to leverage further savings from Australian ODA and a strong case for the Government to maintain their election commitment to increasing aid levels.

56. Further independent and credible scrutiny of government spending through ODA could be achieved through outlining a comprehensive statement on Australian ODA; maintaining a separate ODA budget statement with similar reporting requirements for all departments; making the ODE independent from DFAT; and, creating a Parliamentary Committee on Development Assistance.

57. Benchmarks for ODA spending should aim for Australian aid to be delivered and monitored in a manner that adheres to international standards of best practice.

ⁱ The Hon Joe Hockey MP & The Hon Andrew Robb AO MP, *Final Update On Federal Coalition Election Policy Commitments*, 5 September 2013, available at <http://www.liberal.org.au/latest-news/2013/09/05/final-update-federal-coalition-election-policy-commitments>

ⁱⁱ Federal Coalition, September 2013, *The Coalition's Policy for Foreign Affairs*, available at <http://www.liberal.org.au/our-policies>

ⁱⁱⁱ The Hon. Tony Abbott MP, *Transcript of Joint Doorstop Interview with the Hon. Tony Smith MP, Federal Member for Casey*, Silvan, Victoria, 5 September 2013; and The Hon. Joe Hockey MP, *Transcript of Joint Press Conference with Andrew Robb on Coalition Costings*, 5 September 2013.

^{iv} The Hon. Julie Bishop MP, 25 September 2013, *Address to The Special Event in 2013 to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, available at http://www.foreignminister.gov.au/speeches/2013/jb_sp_130925.html

^v The Hon. Alexander Downer MP, 18 November 1997, *Better Aid for a Better Future, Seventh Annual Report to Parliament on Australia's Development Cooperation Program and The Government's Response to the Committee of Review of Australia's Overseas Aid Program* <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Publications/Documents/parlrep.pdf>

^{vi} The Hon. Alexander Downer MP, op. cit.

^{vii} The Hon. Alexander Downer MP, op. cit.

^{viii} World Bank, 2013, *Poverty Overview* online, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview>

^{ix} United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), 2013, *Asia-Pacific Aspirations: Perspectives for the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, available at <http://www.unescap.org/pdd/calendar/CSN-MDGs-Launch-BKK-Sep2013/>

^x Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), 2013, *Annual Report & Financial Statements*, p.20, available at <http://www.acfid.asn.au/about-acfid/corporate-documents/annual-report-2013>

^{xi} OECD DAC, 2013, *OECD Development Co-operation Peer Review - Australia 2013*, available at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/OECD%20Australia%20FinalONLINE.pdf>

^{xii} This can be seen through an examination of the past 10 years of OECD DAC Annual Development Assistance Co-operation Reports, available at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/analyses.htm> and Australian aid allocations over the same period.

^{xiii} OECD DAC, 2013, see *Preliminary ODA 2012 and trends since 2002 - Interactive charts*, available at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/oda2012-interactive.htm>

^{xiv} OECD DAC, 2013, *OECD Development Co-operation Peer Review - Australia 2013*

^{xv} GAVI Alliance, 2013, *Value of Vaccination*, online at <http://www.gavialliance.org/about/value/>

^{xvi} Hutton, G., 2012, *Global costs and benefits of drinking-water supply and sanitation interventions to reach the MDG target and universal coverage*, p.4, World Health Organisation (WHO), available at http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2012/global_costs/en/index.html

^{xvii} Birthing Kit Foundation Australia, 2013, *Frequently Asked Questions*, online at: <http://www.birthingkitfoundation.org.au/faq.aspx>

^{xviii} AusAID 2011–12 Annual Review of Aid Effectiveness

^{xix} UNICEF, 2013, see http://www.unicef.org/media/media_70375.html

^{xx} ChildInfo, 2013, see http://www.childinfo.org/mortality_ufmrcountrydata.php

^{xxi} OECD DAC, 2013, *OECD Development Co-operation Peer Review - Australia 2013*

^{xxii} Australian Government/AusAID, 2006, *White Paper: Australian Aid: Promoting Growth and Stability*, available at: <http://aid.dfat.gov.au/Publications/Documents/whitepaper.pdf>

^{xxiii} Information on the IATI can be found at <http://iatistandard.org/>

^{xxiv} ODE website, 2013, <http://www.ode.ausaid.gov.au/>

^{xxv} See Betteridge & Howes, November 2013, *A Parliamentary committee on aid? Issues and options*, Policy Brief 8, Development Policy Centre, ANU, available at <http://devpolicy.org/pdf/Policy-brief-8-a-parliamentary-committee-on-aid.pdf>

^{xxvi} Recommendation 25 of the *Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness*, p. 255.

^{xxvii} <http://www.oecd.org/australia/peer-review-australia.htm> accessed 27 Nov 2013

^{xxviii} For information on the Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for Action and Busan Partnership Document, see: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/parisdeclarationandaccraagendaforaction.htm>

Annex A - The ACFID Executive Committee

President: Sam Mostyn

Vice President - Finance: Nigel Spence - CEO, ChildFund Australia

Vice President: Ian Wishart - CEO, Plan International Australia

Vice President: Julia Newton-Howes - CEO, CARE Australia

Committee Members

Dimity Fifer - CEO, Australian Volunteers International

Adam Laidlaw - CEO, WaterAid Australia

Melanie Gow - Chief Strategy Officer and Chief of Staff, World Vision Australia

Christian Nielsen - Executive Director, Live & Learn

Brian Doolan - CEO, The Fred Hollows Foundation

Helen Szoke - CEO, Oxfam Australia

Joanna Hayter – CEO International Women’s Development Agency

Matthew Maury – National Director, TEAR Australia

Annex B – List of ACFID Members as at November 2013

Full Members:

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| 40K Foundation Australia | Diplomacy Training Program | Partners Relief and Development Australia |
| ACC International Relief | Door of Hope Australia Inc. | People with Disability Australia |
| Act for Peace - NCCA | EDO NSW | PLAN International Australia |
| ActionAid Australia | Engineers without Borders | Project Vietnam |
| ADRA Australia | Every Home Global Concern | Quaker Service Australia |
| Afghan Australian Development Organisation | Family Planning New South Wales | RedR Australia |
| Anglican Board of Mission - Australia Limited | Foresight (Overseas Aid and Prevention of Blindness) | Reledev Australia |
| Anglican Overseas Aid | FreeSchools World Literacy | RESULTS International (Australia) |
| Anglican Aid | Fred Hollows Foundation, The | Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists |
| Assisi Aid Projects | Global Development Group | Royal Australasian College of Surgeons |
| Australasian Society for HIV Medicine | Global Mission Partners | Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children |
| Australian Cranio-Maxillo Facial Foundation | GraceWorks Myanmar | Salesian Society Incorporated |
| Australia for UNHCR | Grameen Foundation Australia | Salvation Army (NSW Property Trust) |
| Access Aid International | Habitat for Humanity Australia | Save the Children Australia |
| Asia Pacific Journalism Centre | Hagar Australia | Service Fellowship International Inc. |
| Asian Aid Organisation | HealthServe Australia | Scarlet Alliance: Australian Sex Workers Association |
| Australia Hope International Inc. | Hope Global | SeeBeyondBorders |
| Australian Business Volunteers | Humanitarian Crisis Hub | Sight For All |
| Australian Conservation Foundation | Hunger Project Australia, The | SIMaid |
| Australian Doctors International | International Children's Care (Australia) | Sport Matters |
| Australian Doctors for Africa | International Christian Aid and Relief Enterprises | Surf Aid International |
| Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations | International Detention Coalition | TEAR Australia |
| Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific | International Needs Australia | Transparency International Australia |
| Australian Himalayan Foundation | International Nepal Fellowship (Aust) Ltd | UNICEF Australia |
| Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League | International RiverFoundation | Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA |
| Australian Lutheran World Service | International Women's Development Agency | UnitingWorld |
| Australian Marist Solidarity Ltd | Interplast Australia & New Zealand | University of Cape Town Australian Trust |
| Australian Medical Aid Foundation | Islamic Relief Australia | Volunteers in Community Engagement (VOICE) |
| Australian Red Cross | John Fawcett Foundation | WaterAid Australia |
| Australian Mercy | Kyeema Foundation | World Education Australia |
| Australian Respiratory Council | Lasallian Foundation | World Vision Australia |
| Australian Volunteers International | Leprosy Mission Australia, The | WWF-Australia |
| Baptist World Aid (now part of Transform Aid International) | Lifestyle Solutions (Aust) Ltd | |
| Beyond the Orphanage | Live & Learn Environmental Education | Affiliate Members: |
| Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) | Mahboba's Promise Australia | Refugee Council of Australia |
| Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation | Marie Stopes International Australia | Vision 2020 (Also signatories to the ACFID Code of Conduct) |
| Burnet Institute | Marsh Foundation | La Trobe University – Institute for Human Security |
| Business for Millennium Development | Mary MacKillop International | University of Melbourne – School of Social and Political Sciences |
| CARE Australia | Mercy Works Ltd. | Australian National University – School of Archaeology and Anthropology, College of Arts and Social Sciences |
| Caritas Australia | Mission World Aid Inc. | Deakin University – Alfred Deakin Research Institute |
| CBM Australia | Motivation Australia | University of the Sunshine Coast – International Projects Group |
| Charities Aid Foundation | MSC Mission Office | |
| ChildFund Australia | Nusa Tenggara Association Inc. | |
| CLAN (Caring and Living as Neighbours) | Oaktree Foundation | |
| Credit Union Foundation Australia | Openaid 1000 Villages | |
| Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Overseas Aid Fund | Opportunity International Australia | |
| | Oro Community Development Project Inc. | |
| | Oxfam Australia | |
| | Partners in Aid | |