

AUSTRALIA

1. Measures to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015

Australia is committed to increase its ODA to 0.5% of GNI by 2015-16 and to keep its aid programme focused on the MDGs. It prioritises support for health and education in recognition of the need for progress in these sectors and their role as critical drivers of sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. Australia is increasing assistance to regions where MDG progress is lagging and targeting vulnerable groups, including people with disability. It is leading efforts to eliminate violence against women and improve girls' education and increasing engagement with civil society organizations to support MDG priorities.

2. Changes in development policy, and what drives them

Australia's approach to development co-operation is driven by its commitment to improve effectiveness and value for money. Annual reviews of Australia's development effectiveness, tabled in Parliament since 2008, and the 2010 review of the PNG-Australia Development Cooperation Treaty, are helping to inform policy and approaches. This includes a focus on the role of technical assistance, particularly the use of advisers in the aid program; the use of aid modalities in different development contexts; sector priorities; and alignment with partner government systems.

3. Measures to increase predictability of aid

Australia is increasing the predictability of its aid flows. The Pacific Partnerships for Development which commenced in March 2008 commit Australia to long term, predictable and increased commitments of aid to Papua New Guinea (PNG) and seven Pacific Island Countries. Aid flows are affirmed annually, taking into account performance against commitments, targets and indicators. Similarly, Australia will provide multi-year support to Pakistan through the Australia-Pakistan Development Partnership which is currently being negotiated. Multi-year funding is also provided to several UN agencies and NGOs under Strategic Partnership Agreements that identify shared objectives and indicators to measure success.