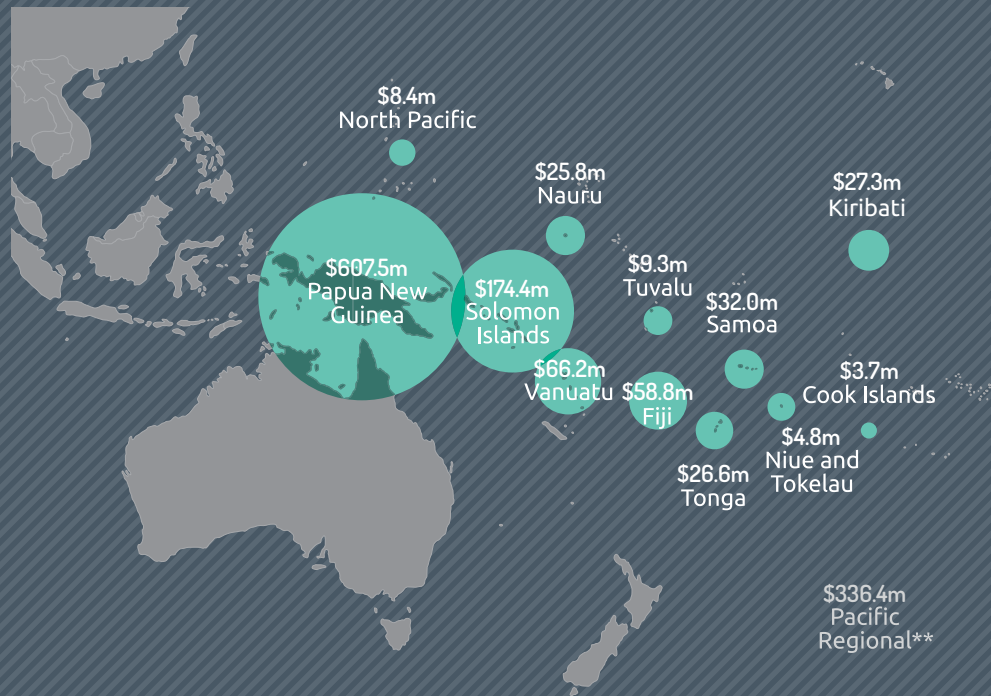
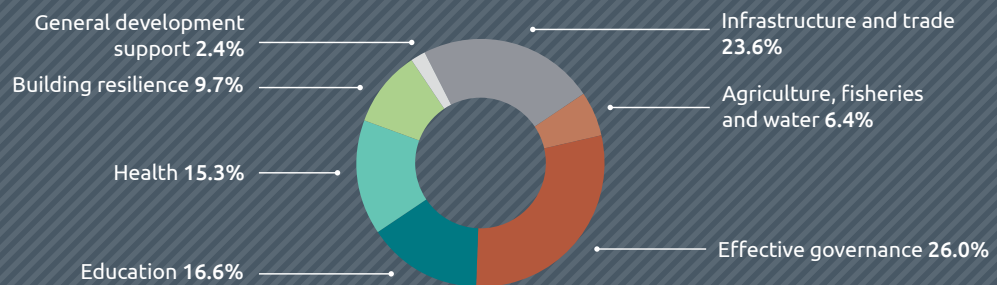


2019-20 TOTAL AUSTRALIAN ODA TO THE PACIFIC*

\$1.4 BILLION



Australian ODA by investment priority



Program highlights



PNG STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS

To prevent, detect and respond to health security threats

\$370m

2019-20 TO 2021-22



PACIFIC EXPANSION OF THE PACIFIC LABOUR SCHEME

Creating more labour mobility opportunities for Pacific islanders

\$70m

2018-19 TO 2022-23



PACIFIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIPS

Opportunities to attend at Australian secondary schools

\$66m

2019-20 TO 2022-23

* Total Australian ODA, from all agencies and programs, attributable to partner countries and regions in the Pacific.

** Pacific Regional includes: humanitarian, secondary schools scholarships, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development and other Australian government departments operating in the Pacific.

Stepping-up: Delivering a new chapter in Australia's relationship with the Pacific

Australia is committed to taking our partnership with the Pacific to a new level with the Prime Minister indicating that the Pacific is more than just our neighbourhood or our region, it is our family.

Australia aspires to a Pacific that is secure strategically, stable economically and sovereign politically. We are investing more than ever in sustainable development in our region, and as the largest bilateral development partner in the Pacific, Australian development assistance will focus on promoting sustainable, inclusive and private-sector led economic development, enhancing security cooperation and deepening people-to-people links.

In 2019–20, Australia will make new investments to promote sustainable development in the Pacific, including the newly-announced Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (the Facility). The Facility will use grant funding, and non-concessional loans, to support high-priority transformative infrastructure in sectors such as telecommunications, energy, transport and water. This is an important step for our regional engagement, to provide resources to Pacific governments to construct and maintain infrastructure crucial for their economies.

Australia's Pacific Labour Scheme will be expanded, allowing more workers from the Pacific to take up lesser skilled opportunities in rural and regional Australia for up to three years. We are working with Pacific Islands Governments to maximise the economic returns to their respective countries. The expansion will provide new opportunities for Pacific workers to remit income to their families and return with new skills to support their country's development. We will continue to work with the Australia Pacific Training Coalition to ensure that it and other Pacific training institutions provide the skills and qualifications needed by workers to take full advantage of the Scheme.

Through new partnerships within the education, sport and church sectors, we will deepen the personal and institutional links between Australian and Pacific communities. Australia will expand the successful Australia-Pacific BRIDGE School Partnerships Program and provide scholarships for Pacific students to attend Australian secondary schools. We will continue to support Pacific partners to build science and innovation capability and use new technology as drivers of future economic growth and social impact. These initiatives complement our existing support through the Australia Awards Scholarships and the Australia Pacific Training Coalition that help to build national capacity and form an integral part of our people-to-people links with the Pacific. Sport too, is a major connection between Australia and the Pacific. A new Australia-Pacific Sports Linkages Program will strengthen sporting links with the Pacific.

As the largest grant donor to the Pacific, Australia will continue to work across sectors critical to driving inclusive economic development and reducing poverty. We will support Pacific countries to improve governance, boost economic opportunities for the private sector and build critical infrastructure to connect populations. We will contribute to the strengthening of law and justice institutions, with a focus on equal access to justice and community services. We will work with our partners to improve human development indicators by strengthening the quality of education and the range of skills-training options available and by supporting access to critical health services. We will support our Pacific partners to assist the most vulnerable people in their communities, promoting gender equality and access for people with disability.

Australia recognises that Pacific countries are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and disasters. Australia is committed to working more closely than ever with our Pacific neighbours to address these shared challenges. We will spend \$300 million over four years to 2020 to deliver climate and disaster resilient low carbon growth in the region. We are also mainstreaming climate and disaster resilience into Australian aid investments across the Pacific, which will fund high priority and resilient infrastructure in the Pacific and Timor-Leste.



1171
awardees

ACROSS 13 COUNTRIES
IN THE PACIFIC



59%
females

**AUSTRALIA AWARDS
SCHOLARS ON AWARD
IN 2019***

* data as at 31 January 2019

Stepping-up for a more secure and prosperous Pacific



ECONOMIC GROWTH

In partnership, better integrate our economies through transformative infrastructure, open access to Australian markets and trade facilitation



CORAL SEA CABLE SYSTEM

Improving internet access and connectivity in PNG and Solomon Islands

UP TO \$200m
2017–18 TO 2019–20



PNG ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Helping to provide electricity to 70 per cent of PNG's population by 2030

\$100m
2018–19 TO 2021–22



NAURU PORT REDEVELOPMENT

Ensuring the safe delivery of essential supplies

\$18.25m
2017–18 TO 2020–21



SECURITY

Promote rules-based order, by committing to good governance and stability in our region



STRENGTHENING PACIFIC REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Through additional financial support

\$43.2m
2019–20



STABILITY IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

Providing communities with access to credible justice systems

\$32.7m
2017–18 TO 2020–21



PACIFIC RESILIENCE

Delivering climate and disaster resilient low carbon growth in the region

\$300m
2016–17 TO 2019–20



RELATIONSHIPS

Build and strengthen relationships



PACIFIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIPS

Attendance at Australian secondary schools

\$66m
2019–20 TO 2022–23



PACIFIC LABOUR SCHEME

Expanding labour mobility opportunities for Pacific Islanders

\$70m
2018–19 TO 2022–23



PACIFIC WOMEN SHAPING PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT

Improving political, social and economic opportunities for women

\$320m
2012 TO 2022

Australia has long been the lead contributor of humanitarian assistance and reconstruction efforts in the Pacific, and we remain ready to work with our Pacific partners to respond to future challenges.

Australia will continue to work closely with its Pacific partners to strengthen regional security, which is essential for sustainable development. We will expand our Cyber Cooperation Program in the Pacific to strengthen cybercrime prevention, prosecution efforts and cooperation. We will establish the Australia Pacific Security College to build the Pacific's capacity to respond to its security issues. These efforts will be supported by our non-development initiatives like our Pacific Fusion Centre.

Case study: Coral Sea Cable System



The Coral Sea Cable on the cable armouring line at Alcatel Submarine Networks.
Photo: Vocus Communications

Australia is working in partnership with the governments of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Solomon Islands to deliver the Coral Sea Cable System. Jointly funded by Australia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, it includes a 730km submarine cable system connecting Honiara to Auki (Malaita Island), Noro (New Georgia Island) and Taro Island.

Construction of the international and domestic networks is progressing well, and installation of the cable will take place from July 2019. The cable is scheduled to be ready for service in December 2019.

The marine survey, which used seabed mapping to determine the cable route, was completed in November 2018. Alcatel Submarine Networks manufactured the cable in France in accordance with the specifications from the survey.

Once complete, PNG and Solomon Islands will majority own the international cable and receive all revenue generated. Solomon Islands will also own its domestic cable and all revenue generated.

The Coral Sea Cable System is a tangible symbol of Australia's enduring commitment to growth and prosperity in the region. It will deliver faster, cheaper and more reliable communications infrastructure, affording both countries significant economic and development benefits.



**\$200
MILLION**
4,700KM LONG

A FIBER OPTIC
SUBMARINE CABLE WILL
LINK SYDNEY TO PORT
MORESBY AND HONIARA



FRIENDSHIP GRANTS

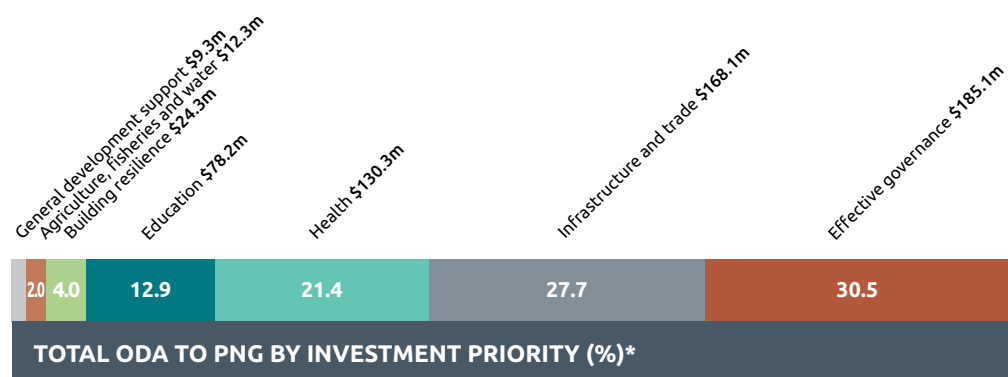
DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGRICULTURE HUB AND DELIVERY OF AGRICULTURE TRAINING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

NSW community partner

Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid Ltd

Papua New Guinea

	2019–20
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	512.3
Regional	49.7
Global	12.8
Other Government Departments	32.7
Total ODA to PNG	607.5



Australia has a strong and enduring partnership with PNG, our nearest neighbour. Close cooperation on economic, security and development matters, as well as a broad range of people-to-people links, highlight the depth and breadth of our relationship. PNG is our largest development partner, and we provide the bulk of PNG's development assistance.

Australia continues to broaden and deepen this enduring partnership. Our cooperation was highlighted during PNG's successful hosting of the 2018 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting. New investments and collaboration in infrastructure and people-to-people links continue to enhance our relationship.

While PNG's long-term prospects are good, the country faces immediate economic and social challenges. Economic growth has slowed due to lower commodity prices, foreign exchange shortages and budget deficits, and is expected to remain at moderate levels over the short-to-medium term. Many remain poor; one in five children are not enrolled in school; and infrastructure constraints hamper service delivery and economic growth.

Australian development assistance supports the work of the PNG Government, private sector and civil society as they respond to challenges in the fields of governance, service delivery and economic growth.



In 2019–20, Australia’s development investments in PNG will include:

- » supporting high-quality infrastructure, including completing the new undersea high-speed telecommunications cable connecting Australia and PNG, expanding access to electrification, and improving health facilities
- » strengthening law and justice by promoting effective law and justice services, addressing community safety and family and sexual violence, and supporting PNG agencies in their anti-corruption efforts
- » supporting economic growth by helping to attract finance for development, improving the business-enabling environment and financial markets, and strengthening agriculture and rural development
- » improving conditions for girls and women by boosting women’s economic empowerment and participation in decision making, promoting female leadership, working to end violence against girls and women, and extending access to support services
- » implementing education-sector activities that improve the quality of schooling, help students gain qualifications and skills for employment, and support the emergence of a new generation of leaders
- » enhancing health, with a focus on: improving maternal and child health; preventing, detecting and treating communicable diseases; improving water and sanitation; and helping to build a more effective health system
- » providing expert advice and assistance on climate issues, including attracting funding for mitigation and adaptation projects
- » supporting more effective governance, particularly for improved economic growth and service delivery at provincial and district levels, improved transparency and accountability, and the operation and responsiveness of law and justice agencies.

Sealing the Boluminski Highway in New Ireland Province, PNG—a major Australian-funded infrastructure project that will bring benefits to businesses and communities and support the tourism industry. Photo: Michael Foster, Transport Sector Support Program



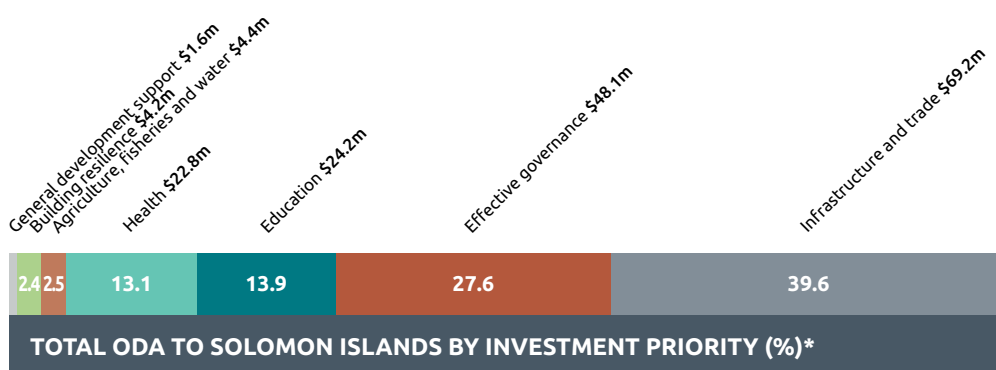
FRIENDSHIP GRANTS

IMPROVING WATER SUPPLY
IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

NSW community partner
Partner Housing Australasia
(Building) Incorporated

Solomon Islands

	2019–20
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	122.3
Regional	25.3
Global	11.6
Other Government Departments	15.3
Total ODA to Solomon Islands*	174.4



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not published.

Australia and Solomon Islands have a deep and longstanding relationship. Australia is Solomon Islands' largest development partner, providing around two-thirds of their total development assistance. Solomon Islands is Australia's third largest development partner, reflecting the significance of the relationship. The relationship between the two countries was cemented during the 14-year Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands and continues to be strong, based on shared interest in a prosperous and stable region and people-to-people links.

Solomon Islands is one of the Pacific's poorest countries, with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita of USD2,270. Most of the population is involved in subsistence agriculture. Solomon Islands has a narrow economic base, leaving the country vulnerable to external shocks. Developing additional sources of private sector growth in Solomon Islands is key to maintaining economic stability and providing job opportunities to a young and fast-growing population.

Australia's development assistance in Solomon Islands focuses on three strategic objectives—supporting stability, enabling economic growth and enhancing human development.

In 2019–20, Australian development assistance to Solomon Islands will focus on:

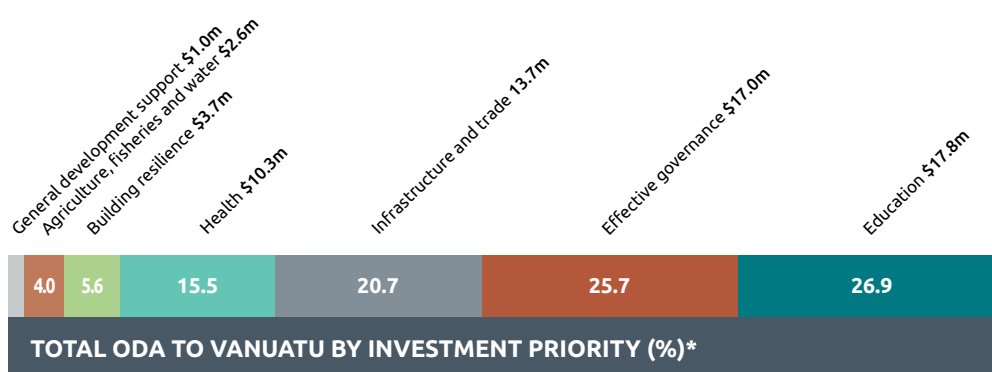
- » delivering the Coral Sea Cable System, linking Honiara and other provincial capitals in Solomon Islands with Sydney and Port Moresby, enabling faster, more reliable Internet to drive economic growth and inclusive development
- » advancing Australia's standing as Solomon Islands' development and security partner of choice, building on a long history of Australian defence, police and border management cooperation
- » continuing to support long-term stability through our Justice, governance and policing development programs to ensure that communities in Solomon Islands are safe and have better access to services, and that progress made under the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands is maintained
- » stepping-up labour mobility through participation in our Seasonal Worker Programme and entry into the Pacific Labour Scheme
- » improving the business environment for private sector investors through the Solomon Islands Growth Program, including: providing assistance with major infrastructure projects (such as the Tina River Hydropower project, a public-private partnership that will lower energy costs for households and businesses in Honiara); creating opportunities for inclusive growth by targeting high-potential industries such as tourism and agriculture; promoting women's participation; and reducing costs to business
- » improving literacy and numeracy skills, improving access to primary and secondary education, and delivering primary health services
- » building on a shared love of sport; the Australia Pacific Sports Linkages Program will strengthen sporting ties between Australia and Solomon Islands.



Solomon Island seasonal workers at work in Mareeba, Queensland. Photo: Pacific Labour Facility, Karen Young

Vanuatu

	2019–20
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	41.9
Regional	11.2
Global	11.9
Other Government Departments	1.2
Total ODA to Vanuatu	66.2



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

Australia is Vanuatu's largest development partner and its primary foreign investment, trade and security partner. More than 200,000 Australians visit Vanuatu each year and more than 7,500 ni-Vanuatu have worked in Australia as part of the Seasonal Worker Programme, embedding strong people-to-people ties.

Vanuatu's recovery from Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015 has continued, with strong economic growth averaging around four per cent in recent years, driven by tourism, agriculture and construction. Constraints to growth include Vanuatu's narrow market base, infrastructure quality and coverage, limited access to financial services and vulnerability to natural disasters. Most people live in rural areas and depend on subsistence farming, fishing and cash crops for their livelihoods. One-third of the population of around 281,000 lack access to basic services.

Australia will continue to work together with Vanuatu in 2019–20 to support growth, stability and development opportunities for all ni-Vanuatu people, in line with the goals of Vanuatu's *National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 to 2030*. Australia will also continue to deepen its security partnership with Vanuatu, including by working together to build police capability, improve infrastructure and support training and leadership.



In 2019–20, Australian development support for Vanuatu will focus on:

- » delivering high quality, climate-resilient infrastructure, including road networks that link communities to basic services and provide access to markets to support rural livelihoods
- » improving opportunities for private sector investment and business development through governance reforms to promote economic growth and strengthen public financial management
- » strengthening policing, justice and community services, including training new police recruits and supporting access to services and justice for women and children experiencing violence
- » improving literacy and numeracy skills of ni-Vanuatu children to increase retention and success rates at all levels of education
- » partnering with the Vanuatu Government and private sector to strengthen the national skills system and equip women and men for better livelihood opportunities in Vanuatu's key productive sectors of tourism, agriculture and handicraft
- » supporting essential health services, combatting infectious diseases such as malaria, and building the capacity of Vanuatu's medical workforce to keep people healthy
- » strengthening Vanuatu's efforts to build resilience and capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters.

Improving literacy and numeracy skills helps ni-Vanuatu girls and boys reach their full potential and contribute to a prosperous future for their country. Photo: Vanuatu Education Support Program

Fiji

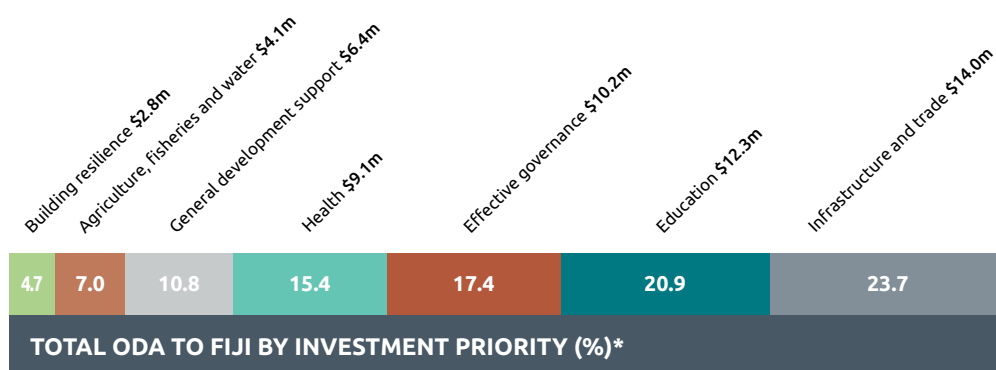


FRIENDSHIP GRANTS

INCREASING THE SKILLS OF
HEALTH CARE WORKERS WHO
PROVIDE SERVICES TO PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITY IN FIJI

NSW community partner
Cerebral Palsy Alliance

	2019–20
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	35.0
Regional	14.3
Global	6.4
Other Government Departments	3.2
Total ODA to Fiji*	58.8



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

Australia is committed to a strong partnership with the Fijian Government, underpinned by significant trade and investment and people-to-people links. We are one of Fiji's largest trade and investment partners, with two-way trade totalling \$2.05 billion in 2017 and Australian investment in Fiji totalling \$1.34 billion. Over 750 Fijians have worked in Australia through the Seasonal Worker Programme, while Australian tourists account for over 50 per cent of arrivals in Fiji.

One of nine 5,000 litre water tanks distributed to Tobunioqo village in Naitasiri Province, which officials say is more than enough to satisfy the drinking needs of the village. Photo: International Finance Corporation



Australia supports Fiji's implementation of its *5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plan*. Our investment in health and education is assisting to create a healthy, skilled and adaptable workforce to boost Fiji's productivity and economic growth. Our investments in private sector development and governance are enhancing work opportunities for all Fijians.

In 2019–20, Australian development support for Fiji will focus on:

- » increasing private sector development, including establishing Fiji's first private-sector managed small business entrepreneur academy and promoting the uptake of new insurance and lending products by small-to-medium enterprises and farmers
- » improving human development by strengthening the quality and accessibility of education and health services in Fiji to:
 - boost obstetric care, disease surveillance and responses to vaccine-preventable diseases
 - further support Fijian Government reforms to the school curriculum
 - provide Australia Awards Scholarships that address Fiji's labour market needs, and
 - advance women's economic empowerment and leadership.

Case study: Building Fiji's resilience to climate change and disasters

Australia has played a key role in funding innovative financial instruments to help Fiji build resilience to climate change and disasters. In Fiji, around 94 per cent of houses are uninsured against tropical cyclones.² As cyclone risks in Fiji remain high, there is a need for measures to help Fijians build resilience to disasters and increase their capacity to recover quickly.

Through the Australia–International Finance Corporation (IFC) Fiji Partnership, a new disaster risk insurance scheme has been developed to help Fiji's poor households gain access to an insurance settlement in the event of a severe cyclone. The scheme is a first in the Pacific and is set to benefit at least 37,000 poor and vulnerable Fijian families whose homes would normally be considered uninsurable. The Fijian Government pays the total insurance premium on behalf of these households. Depending on the severity of the cyclonic winds striking a province, registered households may automatically receive a payout (ranging from FJD500 for a Category 3 cyclone up to a maximum of FJD2,500 for a Category 5 cyclone) to help them rebuild and recover quickly.

This joint collaboration with the Fiji Government and the World Bank's Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative will stimulate Fiji's insurance market and build a culture of insurance in Fiji.

Australia has further supported Fiji to build resilience, in partnership with the IFC. At the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2017, through the DFAT–IFC Fiji Partnership, the Fiji Government successfully launched a FJD100 million (\$66 million) sovereign green bond (earmarked to be used for climate and environment projects). The issuance of the bond made Fiji the first emerging market in the world to use such a bond. Fiji's green bond was also the first of its kind to be listed on the London Stock Exchange in April 2018. Australia provided \$12 million to the DFAT–IFC Fiji Partnership which funded work on the green bond.

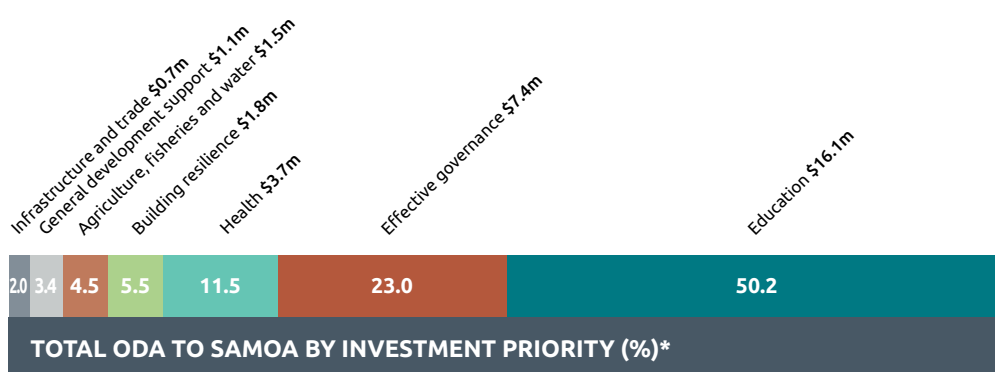
Proceeds of the green bond have been used to build Fiji's resilience and adaptation to climate change, with more than 1,280 school structures rebuilt following the damage caused by Tropical Cyclone Winston, benefiting more than 33,000 students. More than 170 bridges have been rehabilitated, and more than 42,600 people in rural communities throughout Fiji have benefited with access to water from a clean and managed water source.³

² World Bank, *Fiji: Investigating Demand for Household Insurance against Tropical Cyclones*, 2018.

³ Government of Fiji: Ministry of Economy, *Fiji Sovereign Green Bond Impact Report*, 2018.

Samoa

	2019–20
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	23.6
Regional	5.1
Global	1.6
Other Government Departments	1.7
Total ODA to Samoa	32.0



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

As Samoa's largest bilateral donor, we work in close partnership to address security, economic and development priorities. In the 2016 Australian Census, more than 75,000 people living in Australia identified as having Samoan ancestry, one of the largest Pacific groups in Australia. More than 33,000 Australians visited Samoa in 2017 and more than 1,500 Samoans have worked in Australia as part of the Seasonal Worker Programme.

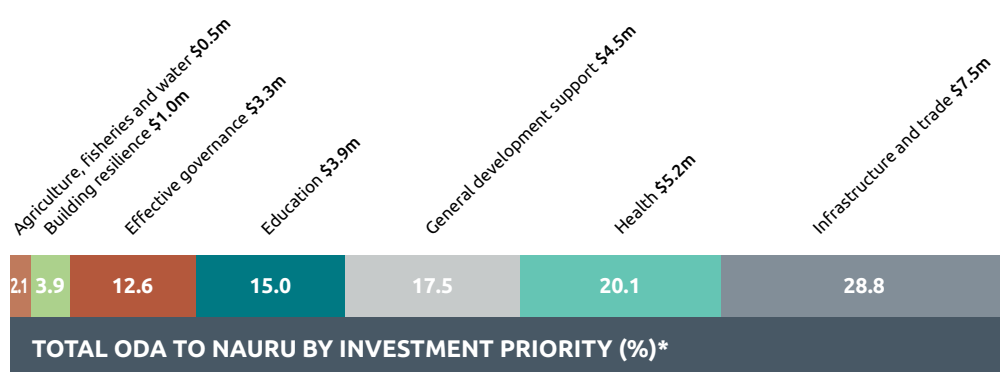
Leveraging many years of stable and productive engagement, Australia and Samoa are working together to improve economic growth and security outcomes by focusing on the development of human capital, improved climate resilience, strengthened governance systems and support to the health sector.

In 2019–20, Australian development support for Samoa will focus on:

- » investing in resilient infrastructure and strengthened democratic governance including the legislative assembly office in support of Samoa's new Parliament Building
- » supporting Samoa's emerging vocational training programs to develop local capability and provide access to labour mobility opportunities
- » procuring critical technical support and resources for the health sector to improve the quality of care for all Samoans, including people living with disability
- » continuing to champion the role of women in Samoa through the Women in Leadership Samoa Project
- » providing technical assistance for economic reform and governance strengthening.

Nauru

	2019–20
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	21.2
Regional	3.5
Global	0.1
Other Government Departments	0.9
Total ODA to Nauru*	25.8



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

Australia is Nauru's largest trade, investment and development assistance partner, and will continue to support Nauru to achieve its development priorities in health, education, essential infrastructure and public sector reform. Nauru's economy faces significant constraints common to other small island states, including its small size, remoteness, and limited resources.



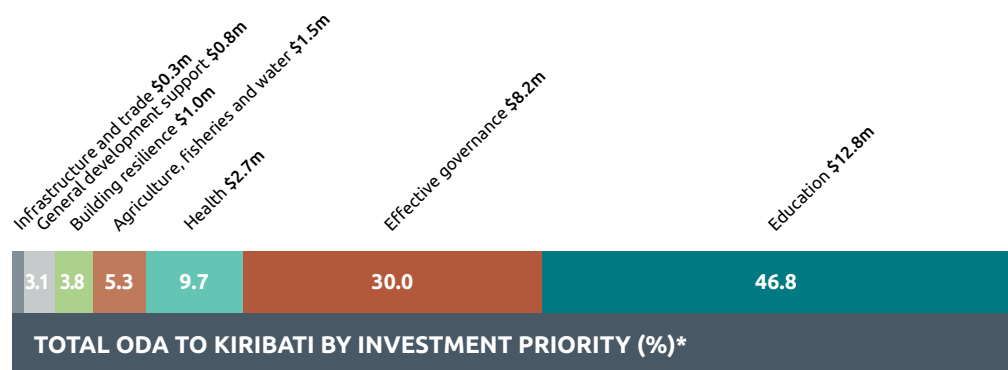
The Australian National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre visited the Republic of Nauru Hospital to help improve the quality of primary care. Photo: DFAT

In 2019–20, Australian development assistance to Nauru will focus on:

- » constructing a climate resilient all-weather port to facilitate the timely delivery of essential supplies and encourage increased trade and economic activity
- » enhancing human development by working with the Department of Health and Medical Services to strengthen Nauru's health system and scale-up primary health care relating to non-communicable diseases
- » continuing support to education, including training and development for educators, and providing Australia Award Scholarships to support study at Australian universities and other tertiary education providers in the region
- » encouraging Nauruans to participate in Australia's labour mobility programs
- » providing skilled personnel to fill key management roles in Nauru's public service to strengthen public financial management, develop coordination and economic governance, and deliver essential utilities
- » continuing our regular contributions to the Intergenerational Trust Fund for the People of Nauru.

Kiribati

	2019–20
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	20.2
Regional	5.4
Global	1.5
Other Government Departments	0.3
Total ODA to Kiribati*	27.3



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

Australia and Kiribati have a strong and growing relationship underpinned by Australia's commitment to supporting Kiribati's development aspirations as set out in *Kiribati 20-Year Vision 2016–2036*. Australia is Kiribati's largest development partner and a growing destination for I-Kiribati workers under the Pacific Labour Scheme.

Kiribati is one of the least economically developed countries in the Pacific. This reflects its geographic isolation, narrow resource base and limited private sector activity. A rapidly expanding population in South Tarawa is putting pressure on fresh water supplies, health, coastal infrastructure, and agricultural land, reefs and fisheries. The impact of climate change will compound these pressures. Depopulation of other islands, as people move to South Tarawa, creates other pressures for the Government of Kiribati to manage.

Kiribati was one of the first countries to participate in Australia's Pacific Labour Scheme and we will continue to promote employment opportunities for I-Kiribati workers in 2019–20. These opportunities enable I-Kiribati workers to gain important workforce skills and experiences and provide remittances to their families.

In 2019–20, Australian development assistance for Kiribati will focus on:

- » assisting the Government of Kiribati to implement economic reforms to build greater resilience against external shocks and maximise the benefits flowing from its natural resources
- » improving basic education to enable young I-Kiribati to pursue further education and employment opportunities
- » enhancing the employability of young I-Kiribati by developing workforce skills
- » implementing a new health program that will increase Kiribati's capacity to administer the national health system and manage national health threats such as: endemic communicable diseases; mental health disabilities; and non-communicable disease-related amputations.

Case study: Community-based fisheries in the Pacific

Catching, trading and eating fish is central to the way of life in the Pacific islands. Although the tuna industry dominates regional and national narratives, most of the fish eaten by Pacific communities are caught close to shore by people living in rural communities. These fisheries face many threats, including overfishing and climate change. Effective management of these fisheries present national agencies with many challenges. Communities themselves are central to better stewardship of coastal resources, but this requires long-term investment in local institutions.

The Australian Government is working in partnership with the University of Wollongong and international, regional and national partners to address challenges in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (\$8 million, including \$2 million from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, 2017–21). The project is part of the 'A New Song' regional strategy lead by the Pacific Community, which promotes community-based approaches to the management of coastal fisheries.

The project works with more than 3,000 households in 40 communities. It aims to improve regulations and policies that improve coastal fisheries management, build a diversity of livelihoods, and improve post-harvest technologies. Greater participation and benefit sharing by women is a central theme of the project.

Other Pacific

Tonga

2019–20 Total ODA to Tonga: \$26.6 million

Australia's relationship with Tonga is underpinned by extensive people-to-people links between our countries. Tonga values Australia as a longstanding and reliable development partner and it looks to Australia as its primary security partner. Australia is Tonga's largest source of development assistance and the second largest source of remittance income. Approximately 32,000 Australians identify themselves as having Tongan ancestry, more than 8,500 Tongans have worked in Australia as part of the Seasonal Worker Programme and more than 400 Tongan students have benefited from Australia Awards Scholarships since 2007.

Tonga is geographically isolated and highly vulnerable to natural disasters (rated second on the World Risk Index). Its economy is characterised by a narrow resource, production and export base, and the country relies heavily on foreign assistance and remittances from Tongans working overseas. Other significant constraints include the prevalence and impact of non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, along with high levels of government debt.

In 2019–20, Australian development assistance for Tonga will support these strategic priorities:

- » providing support for Tonga's recovery from Tropical Cyclone Gita, including the reconstruction of schools, restoration of community water supplies and capacity building to help the Tongan Government coordinate the recovery effort (working with the World Bank)
- » strengthening the health system by focusing on preventative and primary care to address non-communicable diseases, and supporting mental health and disability services
- » partnering with Tonga and other like-minded partners (New Zealand, ADB, European Union and World Bank) to support economic reform, including to strengthen revenue, manage expenditure and debt, and promote private sector growth
- » providing Australia Awards Scholarships, quality tertiary education and skills development aligned with labour market needs to provide opportunities for Tongan workers, including for women and people with disability.

Principal Pharmacist from Tonga Health holds medication, that has been tested under Australia's Pacific Medicines Testing Program. Photo: DFAT





Sharing information about Australia Awards with the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute. Photo: DFAT/Coffey

Tuvalu

2019–20 Total ODA to Tuvalu: \$9.3 million

Australia and Tuvalu's partnership is based on shared values, links between our communities, and a commitment to supporting Tuvalu address its development challenges. Reflecting this, Australia has established a new High Commission in Funafuti which became operational in November 2018. Our development assistance is supporting Tuvalu to strengthen its governance systems, economic and environmental resilience, human resource capacity and improve its gender equality and disability inclusiveness.

While Tuvalu's economic prospects are constrained as a result of its small size, geographic isolation and limited natural resources, the country continues to make progress. Important policy reforms have been made in the areas of infrastructure management, primary and preventative health care, mainstreaming social inclusion issues, and public financial management. Australia's investments have opened opportunities for Tuvaluan workers to secure short to medium-term employment in Australia under the Pacific Labour Scheme.

In 2019–20, Australian development assistance to Tuvalu will focus on:

- » strengthening Tuvalu's capacity for economic and social reform, including by providing technical assistance in key areas of government
- » enhancing access to quality education through improving school management, training teachers and increasing student literacy and building classrooms, in addition to providing scholarships and other training opportunities in the region
- » supporting opportunities for Tuvaluans to participate in Australia's labour mobility programs
- » supporting the Government of Tuvalu to strengthen its response to the impacts of climate change and improve disaster risk preparedness, including through technical assistance to the Office of the Prime Minister to support Tuvalu meet its Paris commitments and enable Tuvalu to access global climate finance.

Cook Islands

2019–20 Total ODA to the Cook Islands: \$3.7 million

The Government of Cook Islands has accorded high priority to the country's further development, as articulated in its *National Sustainable Development Plan 2016–2020*. Priority sectors include developing marine resources within Cook Islands' large exclusive economic zone, and further developing its tourism, education, seabed mining and renewable energy sectors.

Cook Islands has a relatively high GDP per capita in comparison to many Pacific island countries, reflecting the impact of expatriate residents and the tourist-based economy of the capital, Rarotonga. The level of economic prosperity and opportunity differs markedly between Rarotonga and the Pa Enua (outer islands), where many Cook Islanders live a more subsistence lifestyle with less access to basic services.

Cook Islands is highly vulnerable to natural disasters which can have a devastating effect on the economy, as demonstrated by the significant damage to key infrastructure in 2010 caused by Tropical Cyclone Pat, and the severe drought in 2011.

In 2019–20, Australian development assistance to the Cook Islands will focus on:

- » supporting the education sector
- » providing advisory support and training to empower and promote the rights of women and girls
- » up-grading waste management and sanitation facilities.

Niue and Tokelau

2019–20 Total ODA to Niue and Tokelau: \$4.8 million

Niue

Australia's development assistance to Niue focuses on education and the management of waste. Australia provides this assistance through a delegated cooperation arrangement with New Zealand. Australian support to Niue is aligned with the development priorities identified in the Joint Commitment for Development between New Zealand and Niue.

Niue faces significant economic challenges and persistent vulnerability to natural disasters. Geographic isolation, limited natural resources and a small population restrain economic development. The island's infrastructure, particularly tourism facilities and housing, is vulnerable to economic devastation from natural disasters, such as cyclones.

Successive Niuean governments have grappled with the declining population. At the time of the 2006 Census, the population was 1,625 and fell to approximately 1,600 in 2011. Almost 24,000 Niueans live in New Zealand (2013 New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings) and about 750 live in Australia (2016 Australian Census of Population and Housing).

In 2019–20, Australian development support to Niue will focus on:

- » designing a waste management program to meet the increasing challenges facing the country
- » implementing a pilot vocational education scholarship program to train new nurses, teachers and tradespeople.

Tokelau

Australian development assistance to Tokelau is delivered through a delegated cooperation arrangement with New Zealand. Australian support to Tokelau is aligned with the Joint Commitment for Development between New Zealand and Tokelau.

Tokelau is one of the smallest economies in the world. The principal sources of revenue are remittances from relatives in New Zealand, sales of postage stamps, souvenir coins, Internet domain registrations and fishing licenses for use within its exclusive economic zone.

Tokelau's population of 1,499 people (2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings) is the fourth smallest of any country or territory and is spread across three low-lying coral atolls (Atafu, Fakaofo and Nukunonu) with a land area of only 12 square kilometres. Tokelau is poorly serviced by transport routes. It has no airport and the only way to travel in or out is by a 26-hour, 500-kilometre boat ride from Samoa. This makes it difficult for people to access work opportunities abroad and means importing goods is expensive.

In 2019–20, Australia development support to Tokelau will focus on continuing our support for improving early childhood education.

North Pacific

2019–20 Total ODA to the North Pacific: \$8.4 million

Australia's development assistance in the North Pacific countries of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau is delivered in collaboration with government, multilateral development partners and NGOs.

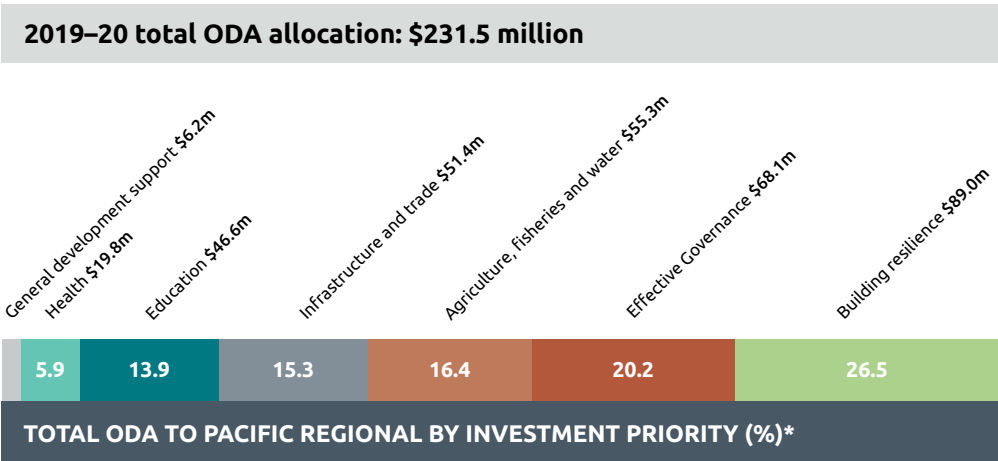
In 2019–20, Australian development support to the North Pacific will focus on:

- » strengthening the effectiveness of education systems in the Federated States of Micronesia, in partnership with the ADB
- » reforming Palau's digital communications sector and increasing access to high-quality, low-cost Internet services by taking advantage of a submarine cable connecting Palau to an international cable hub in Guam
- » establishing an integrated water supply and sanitation system in partnership with the ADB on Ebeye Island in the Republic of the Marshall Islands to improve health outcomes for residents.

Australian development assistance will also help improve social and economic opportunities for women and girls in the North Pacific through the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program. Our assistance will also build national capacity through provision of Australia Awards Scholarships.



Pacific Regional



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below two per cent are not labelled.

Australia’s Pacific Regional Program is committed to strengthening stability, security and prosperity in the Pacific, by tackling issues at regional partnership level. In 2019–20, Australian development support through the regional program will focus on:

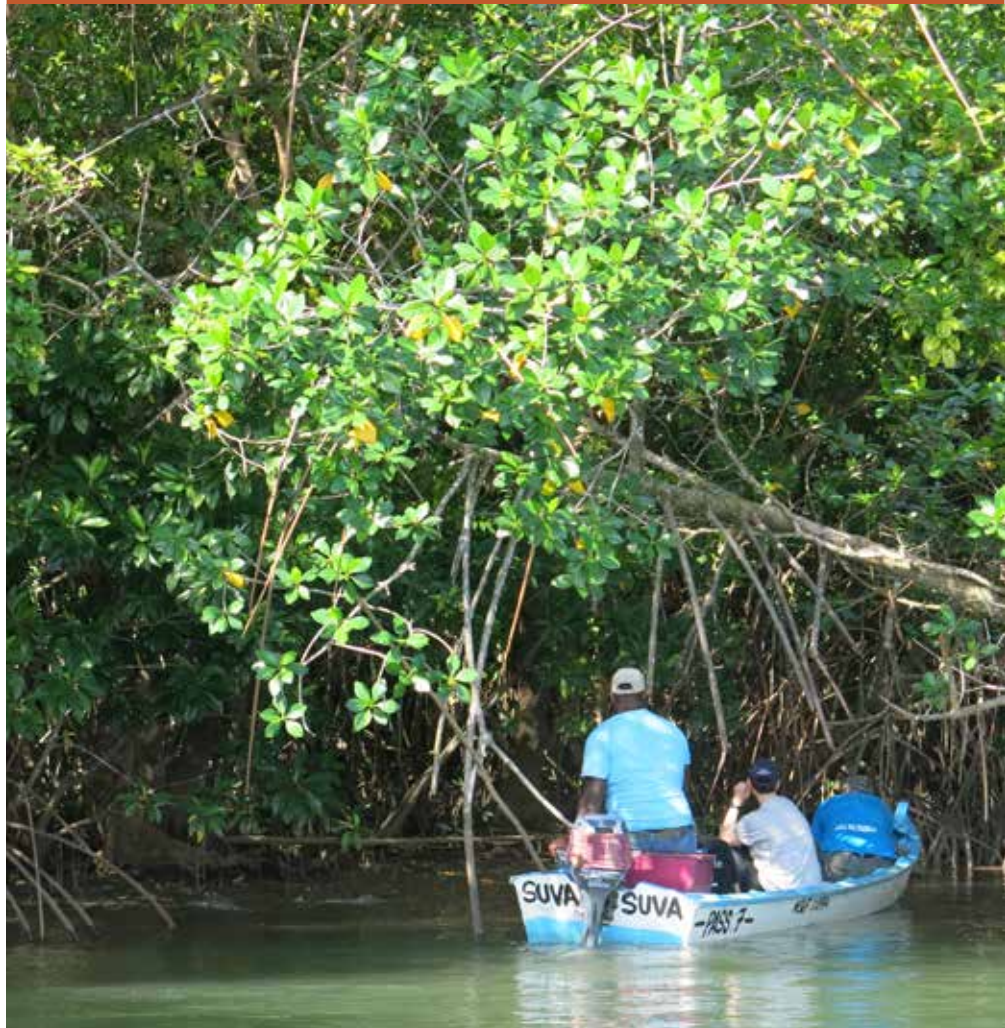
- » establishing the new Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific
- » expanding labour mobility opportunities for Pacific island countries through the Pacific Labour Scheme



- » delivering better health outcomes, by enabling:
 - the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to provide visiting medical teams to eleven countries in ten specialty areas
 - the International Planned Parenthood Federation to deliver 170,500 sexual and reproductive health services targeting underserved populations
 - access to Australia’s pharmaceutical quality assurance systems provided by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and
 - the Pacific Community’s Public Health Division to intensify efforts to tackle the non-communicable disease crisis
- » supporting gender equality and women’s empowerment through *Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development*, including further programming addressing women’s economic empowerment, women’s leadership and the needs of adolescent girls
- » establishing a new church partnerships program that will support people-to-people links between Pacific and Australian church leaders and their communities
- » enhancing Pacific island countries’ access to Australia’s secondary education by rolling out a new program of secondary school scholarships for Pacific students to study at Australian schools. The Australia–Pacific BRIDGE Schools Partnership Program has been expanded to establish additional secondary school partnerships and teacher collaboration
- » building Pacific island capacity to respond to security issues, including by establishing the Australia Pacific Security College, and strengthening Pacific border, identity and health security through partnerships with Australian institutions

The team at CARE Vanuatu, supported by Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development. Photo: DFAT

Case study: Accelerating practical action on blue carbon ecosystems



Surveying mangroves in Fiji. Photo: Department of the Environment and Energy, Lucy Wallington

Australia is supporting the Pacific Blue Carbon Initiative, an investment of \$6 million over three years to 2021, to boost efforts to protect and manage coastal blue carbon ecosystems in the Pacific. We are doing so in partnership with Fiji and other Pacific countries, regional institutions and private sector organisations. Australia's leadership of the International Partnership for Blue Carbon also aims to build awareness, share knowledge and accelerate practical action to protect and restore mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrass systems for climate action. Since 2015, the Partnership has grown to include almost 40 formal members. Beyond sequestering carbon, coastal blue carbon systems can enhance biodiversity, food security, secure livelihoods, increase resilience and contribute to climate adaptation. Australia is working with Germany and Pacific island countries for stronger management of blue carbon systems.

- » assisting Pacific island countries with advocacy and coordination on oceans issues, including marine litter, maritime boundaries and biodiversity in the high seas
- » increasing the income from Pacific tuna fisheries and helping detect and prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- » increasing the resilience of Pacific inshore fisheries, including through the increased use of community-based fisheries management
- » increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change and disasters in all relevant Australian investments, improving access to and use of reliable climate information, supporting national administrations to improve climate and disaster governance, and supporting initiatives such as the Pacific Resilience Partnership
- » supporting effective regional institutions—led by the Pacific Islands Forum—to contribute to regional growth, security and resilience. In addition to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, our key partnerships will include the Pacific Community, Forum Fisheries Agency, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, and University of the South Pacific.



Tuvaluan tuna fishermen supporting Australia's fishing industry. Photo: Pacific Labour Facility, Karen Young