



## 2017 AID EVALUATION PLAN OUTCOME

### Foreword by Jim Adams, Chair of DFAT's Independent Evaluation Committee

I commend the excellent performance of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in delivering on its inaugural 2017 Aid Evaluation Plan.

Over a number of years, the Independent Evaluation Committee had expressed concern over the low publication rates of aid evaluations. In 2016, the Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) found that while evaluations were being completed to solid standards, only half had management responses and only a third had been published. The implications of this were low levels of accountability, transparency and missed opportunities for learning.

To overcome the low publication rates, the DFAT Executive with the IEC's endorsement released a new Aid Evaluation Policy in November 2016. The new policy sought to realign the incentives for aid evaluation, away from narrow compliance to a demand driven approach where senior program managers were responsible for determining what they would evaluate based on need and use. Under the new policy ODE maintained its responsibilities for ensuring both appropriate country coverage in the evaluation program and that proper attention is paid to difficult investments. The policy also underlined the importance of DFAT Senior Executive oversight of the evaluation process. As a result of the new policy, the first department-wide Aid Evaluation Plan, covering the 2017 program, was introduced early last year; this Plan was published on the DFAT website in January 2017.

The disclosure results of the initial year of the new policy are now in. By the end of 2017, a 95% completion rate was achieved for publications against the published Plan. This represents an exceptional improvement on past experience from a transparency, accountability and operational perspective. In reviewing this, it is clear to me that the result was directly due to the extensive efforts of DFAT's geographic divisions, Diplomatic Posts and ODE staff. While the broader impact of the Policy on program effectiveness is also a key issue, I would add that ODE will be undertaking a review of the quality of 2017 program evaluations in early 2018. This review will focus on the key findings of the evaluations for wider dissemination and learning.

From my perspective, it is clear that DFAT's performance on publications now fully meets its past commitments and represents a solid example of "best practice" among all development agencies.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Adams', on a white background.

**Jim Adams**

Chair, Independent Evaluation Committee



## 2017 Aid Evaluation Plan Outcome

The Office of Development Effectiveness is pleased to report the results of the 2017 DFAT Aid Evaluation Plan. The original Plan, published in February 2017, included 46 evaluations. Throughout the year, the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade agreed for nine evaluations to be deferred to 2018 and seven new evaluations to be included in the Plan, while one was not considered an evaluation. Reasons for deferral included changing program priorities, availability of evaluators and delays on the part of partners in joint evaluations. The final revised plan included a total of 43 evaluations to be published in 2017.

By the end of 2017, 41 out of the 43 evaluations (95%) in the revised plan had been published – of the two outstanding evaluations, one was published in February 2018 and the other is expected to be published by the end of April 2018.

Performance against the 2017 Plan is reported in the table below, including links to all published evaluations.

Aid Evaluations Published in 2017 (*additional evaluations approved to the original Plan in italics*)

Program	Number	Evaluation	Website link
<b>Strategic evaluations (ODE)</b>	<b>4</b>		
		Humanitarian Assistance in the Pacific: The Effectiveness of Australia's Response to Cyclone Pam	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/other-work/Pages/evaluation-of-effectiveness-australias-response-cyclone-pam.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/other-work/Pages/evaluation-of-effectiveness-australias-response-cyclone-pam.aspx</a>
		Combatting Pandemics & Emerging Infectious Diseases	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/strategic-evaluations/Pages/pandemics-and-emerging-infectious-diseases.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/strategic-evaluations/Pages/pandemics-and-emerging-infectious-diseases.aspx</a>
		Electoral systems strengthening	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/strategic-evaluations/Pages/making-it-count-lessons-from-australian-electoral-assistance-2006-16.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/strategic-evaluations/Pages/making-it-count-lessons-from-australian-electoral-assistance-2006-16.aspx</a>
		Disability-inclusive development – Australian Advocacy	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/strategic-evaluations/Pages/unfinished-business.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/strategic-evaluations/Pages/unfinished-business.aspx</a>
<b>Pacific</b>	<b>16</b>		
Pacific Regional	3	Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pacific-women-three-year-evaluation-report-mgt-resp.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pacific-women-three-year-evaluation-report-mgt-resp.aspx</a>
		<i>Independent Evaluation of the Pacific Leadership Program Phase 3</i>	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pacific-leadership-program-phase-3-independent-evaluation-management-response.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pacific-leadership-program-phase-3-independent-evaluation-management-response.aspx</a>
		Pacific Financial Inclusion Program	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pacific-financial-inclusion-program-mtr.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pacific-financial-inclusion-program-mtr.aspx</a>
PNG	4	Australia response to El Nino in PNG	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/evaluation-of-australias-response-to-png-el-nino-drought-2015-2017.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/evaluation-of-australias-response-to-png-el-nino-drought-2015-2017.aspx</a>
		Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development: activities in PNG	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pacific-women-shaping-pacific-development-in-png-mid-term-review-of-the-png-country-plan-and-management-">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pacific-women-shaping-pacific-development-in-png-mid-term-review-of-the-png-country-plan-and-management-</a>

			<a href="#">response.aspx</a>
		<i>Bougainville Youth Initiative</i>	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/png-bougainville-youth-initiative-independent-review.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/png-bougainville-youth-initiative-independent-review.aspx</a>
		PNG Health and HIV Multilateral Partnership	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/papua-new-guinea-ind-eval-dfats-multilateral-partnerships-health-sector.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/papua-new-guinea-ind-eval-dfats-multilateral-partnerships-health-sector.aspx</a>
Solomon Is	2	Health Sector Support Program Phase 3	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/solomon-islands-health-sector-support-independent-review-management-response.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/solomon-islands-health-sector-support-independent-review-management-response.aspx</a>
		Education Sector Program 2: Joint Annual Review on Co-funding	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/solomon-islands-education-sector-program-2-independent-assessment-report.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/solomon-islands-education-sector-program-2-independent-assessment-report.aspx</a>
Samoa	1	Samoa Inclusive Education Demonstration Program	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/samoa-education-sector-independent-verification-process-report-2017.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/samoa-education-sector-independent-verification-process-report-2017.aspx</a>
Vanuatu	3	<i>Roads for Development</i>	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/independent-evaluation-of-vanuatu-roads-for-development-r4d-program.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/independent-evaluation-of-vanuatu-roads-for-development-r4d-program.aspx</a>
		<i>Governance for Growth</i>	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/governance-for-growth-final-evaluation.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/governance-for-growth-final-evaluation.aspx</a>
		<i>Strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education</i>	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/vanuatu-strengthening-early-childhood-care-and-education-evaluation-report-mgt-resp.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/vanuatu-strengthening-early-childhood-care-and-education-evaluation-report-mgt-resp.aspx</a>
Fiji	2	Fiji Community Development program	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/fiji-community-development-program-end-program-eval-report.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/fiji-community-development-program-end-program-eval-report.aspx</a>
		<i>Pacific Women's Country Plan Review</i>	<a href="http://pacificwomen.org/key-pacific-women-resources/pacific-women-fiji-country-review/">http://pacificwomen.org/key-pacific-women-resources/pacific-women-fiji-country-review/</a>
North Pacific	1	Cleared Ground De-Mining Project in Palau	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/palau-survey-clearance-explosive-remnants-war-eval-report.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/palau-survey-clearance-explosive-remnants-war-eval-report.aspx</a>
<b>South East Asia</b>	<b>14</b>		

Indonesia	4	Australia's Education Partnership	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/indonesia-education-partnership-completion-report.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/indonesia-education-partnership-completion-report.aspx</a>
		Australia Indonesia Partnership Rural Economic Development Program	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-indonesia-partnership-rural-economic-development-mid-term-review-and-management-response.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-indonesia-partnership-rural-economic-development-mid-term-review-and-management-response.aspx</a>
		Eastern Indonesia National Road Improvement Project - undertaken by ODE	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/other-work/Pages/investing-in-roads-lessons-from-eastern-indonesia-national-roads-improvement-program.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/other-work/Pages/investing-in-roads-lessons-from-eastern-indonesia-national-roads-improvement-program.aspx</a>
		Indonesia Infrastructure Initiative Phase 2	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/indonesia-indii-program-mission-3-report.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/indonesia-indii-program-mission-3-report.aspx</a>
Timor-Leste	2	National Program for Village Development Support Program	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/timor-leste-pndssp-mid-term-review-mgt-resp.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/timor-leste-pndssp-mid-term-review-mgt-resp.aspx</a>
		Australian support for improved nutrition in Timor-Leste	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/timor-leste-nutrition-strategic-review.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/timor-leste-nutrition-strategic-review.aspx</a>
Philippines	1	Australia's Support for Peace in Mindanao	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/philippines-strategic-review-of-australias-support-for-peace-in-mindanao.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/philippines-strategic-review-of-australias-support-for-peace-in-mindanao.aspx</a>
Vietnam	2	Integrated Coastal Management Program	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/icmp-mekong-provinces-summary-report-final-eval-mgt-response.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/icmp-mekong-provinces-summary-report-final-eval-mgt-response.aspx</a>
		Mekong Transport Infrastructure Program	<a href="http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/861781492617664313/Vietnam-Mekong-Delta-Transport-Infrastructure-Development-Project">http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/861781492617664313/Vietnam-Mekong-Delta-Transport-Infrastructure-Development-Project</a>
Cambodia	2	Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Phase 1 - undertaken by ODE	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/strategic-evaluations/Pages/cambodia-agricultural-value-chain-cavac-phase-one-evaluation.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/strategic-evaluations/Pages/cambodia-agricultural-value-chain-cavac-phase-one-evaluation.aspx</a>
		3i – Investing in Infrastructure	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/cambodia-investing-in-infrastructure-scalability-review.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/cambodia-investing-in-infrastructure-scalability-review.aspx</a>
Myanmar	1	<i>Strengthening Pre-service teacher training in Myanmar</i>	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/myanmar-strengthening-pre-service-teacher-education-stem-project-review.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/myanmar-strengthening-pre-service-teacher-education-stem-project-review.aspx</a>

SEA Regional	2	Mekong Business Initiative	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/mekong-business-initiative-mid-term-evaluation-man-resp.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/mekong-business-initiative-mid-term-evaluation-man-resp.aspx</a>
		Greater Mekong Water Resources Program	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/greater-mekong-water-resource-program-approach-policy-dialogue-evaluative-study-mgt-res.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/greater-mekong-water-resource-program-approach-policy-dialogue-evaluative-study-mgt-res.aspx</a>
<b>South and West Asia</b>	<b>5</b>		
Pakistan	2	Pakistan Ending Violence Against Women Program	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pakistan-challenging-gender-based-violence-evaluation-report-management-response.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pakistan-challenging-gender-based-violence-evaluation-report-management-response.aspx</a>
		Pakistan Trade and Investment Policy Program	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pakistan-trade-investment-policy-program-review-mgt-resp.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/pakistan-trade-investment-policy-program-review-mgt-resp.aspx</a>
Afghanistan	1	Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-afghanistan-community-resilience-scheme-mid-term-review-report-and-management-response.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/australia-afghanistan-community-resilience-scheme-mid-term-review-report-and-management-response.aspx</a>
Sri Lanka	1	Community Forestry Program	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/sri-lanka-community-forestry-program-independent-completion-report-and-management-response.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/sri-lanka-community-forestry-program-independent-completion-report-and-management-response.aspx</a>
Nepal	1	Australia's response to Nepal earthquakes	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/nepal-build-safer-schools-for-all-evaluation-report.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/nepal-build-safer-schools-for-all-evaluation-report.aspx</a>
<b>Humanitarian</b>	<b>2</b>		
		Tropical Cyclone Winston Education Response	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/fiji-tc-winston-education-response-evaluation.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/fiji-tc-winston-education-response-evaluation.aspx</a>
		Australia's humanitarian assistance to Myanmar	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/review-of-australias-humanitarian-assistance-to-myanmar.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/review-of-australias-humanitarian-assistance-to-myanmar.aspx</a>
<b>TOTAL DFAT</b>	<b>41</b>		

### Publication delayed from 2017 Plan

Climate change assistance	To be published by April 2018
Transport sector support program (published February 2018) <i>- undertaken by ODE</i>	<a href="http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/strategic-evaluations/Pages/road-management-in-papua-new-guinea.aspx">http://dfat.gov.au/aid/how-we-measure-performance/ode/strategic-evaluations/Pages/road-management-in-papua-new-guinea.aspx</a>

### Evaluations deferred from 2017 Plan to 2018 Plan

Division	Evaluation
<b>Pacific</b>	
PNG	Bougainville Governance Program
Solomon Is	Education Sector Program 2: Mid-Term Review
Vanuatu	Tropical Cyclone Pam Recovery Program
Fiji	Access to Quality Education Program
<b>South East Asia</b>	
Vietnam	Southern Coastal Corridor Program
Myanmar	Decentralising Funding for Schools Project
Philippines	Basic Sector Transformation Program
<b>South and West Asia</b>	
Afghanistan	Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
Bangladesh	Support to Vulnerable Communities in Cox's Bazar

Evaluation dropped: Pacific Regional Partnership for Health and Rights. This evaluation did not fit the criteria of DFAT's independent evaluation policy.