



Australia Awards

Australia Awards

Global Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

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Introduction

Australia Awards are a whole of Australian government initiative bringing together international scholarships, fellowships and short courses. Guided by the *Australia Awards Global Strategy – Investing in the next generation of global leaders for development 2015-18 (the Global Strategy)*, the Australia Awards are implemented across many parts of the developing world. A number of different actors are involved in this implementation, and all collect, hold and use a range of information (data) about the Australia Awards and its performance.

This framework for the monitoring and evaluation of Australia Awards is designed to provide high level guidance for staff of DFAT and of implementation partners (mainly managing contractors, but also academic institutions), in line with the *Global Strategy*. It is intended to sit alongside, and inform, other, more detailed methodological and implementation plans, including the monitoring and evaluation plans of each country or regional program. It complements more technical guidance provided by the DFAT Monitoring and Evaluation Standards, and the Australia Awards Monitoring and Evaluation Good Practice Note.

This framework will enable Australia Awards to collect, analyse and report all information necessary to meet the requirements of the *Making Performance Count: enhancing the accountability and effectiveness of Australian Aid* framework and associated aid performance benchmarks.

Purpose

The purpose of this monitoring and evaluation framework (MEF) is to provide consistency and clarity about what information is required, when, and by whom. Monitoring and evaluation of program implementation and performance is essential for three important reasons:

- It provides the information required for DFAT, managing contractors and stakeholders to make day-to-day and strategic **management** decisions about Australia Awards;
- It supports **accountability and communication** to senior management, the Parliament, the people of Australia and of partner countries, and to program stakeholders, about the use of program resources and the achievement of program outcomes;
- It enables program stakeholders to **learn** from the program and apply that learning to other relevant investments.

In summary, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is essential for well-informed management decision-making, for strong accountability, and for learning.

The MEF provides information about:

- *How* monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken at key points in the cycle of scholarships and Fellowships (and the program logic);
- *Who* is responsible for M&E tasks;
- *How* the evidence generated by M&E will be shared and used at each point in the cycle/logic, and by whom;
- *How* information will flow throughout the Australia Awards cycle.

This document also provides an overview of some common M&E language and terminology, to assist with understanding and use.

Each country or regional program will operationalise this MEF in its own way. For those supported by managing contractors, managing contractors will be required to ensure their M&E systems align with the global MEF. Other country or regional programs will work with the Australia Awards and Alumni Branch (AWB) to ensure their approach to M&E is also aligned, seeking additional external support if required.

Implementation of this MEF will strengthen the ability to answer a number of important evaluation questions about Australia Awards at a global level, including:

1. Who are the awardees? (With the capacity to explore their gender, location, sector of employment, field of study or training, age, disability, employer – and the extent to which the program is accessible and equitable).
2. What sectors and fields of study is Australia investing in, and how well does this align with the Global Strategy, with broader Australian aid priorities, and the other priorities of the Australian government?
3. What sorts of people and organisations are awardees connecting with while participating in the program, what is the nature of those connections, and are they maintaining those links afterwards?
4. Where are alumni working and how are they using the skills, knowledge and networks developed through Australia Awards?
5. How are alumni contributing to the development of their home country, and what has the impact of those contributions been?
6. How are alumni contributing to the relationship between that country and Australia?

The groups and organisations included in the MEF are:

- Country and regional programs that manage Australia Awards – mainly Posts, but in some cases also DFAT Desks in Canberra
- Managing Contractors – most Australia Awards country or regional programs are supported by a contractor
- DFAT Australia Awards and Alumni Branch (AWB)
- Academic Institutions in Australia
- Academic Institutions in the Pacific region
- The survey contractor engaged by DFAT to undertake regular Arrival and On Award surveys of scholarship awardees across all country and regional programs
- The Australia Awards Global Tracer Facility
- Other specialist contractors engaged to support M&E
- Australian Host Organisations

Australia Awards Program Logic

The *Global Strategy* sets out the program logic for Australia Awards, including a set of intended Intermediate and Long-term Outcomes. These form the framework for M&E arrangements at all levels. These outcomes are described below. Each articulates a separate area of change sought through Australia Awards. Every country or regional program will implement Australia Awards in a way that is tailored to the specific context and its relevant priorities. This may mean that individual outcomes are accorded greater or lesser priority, and receive greater or lesser allocation of resources within country or regional programs.

Long-term Outcomes

1. Alumni are using their skills, knowledge and networks to contribute to sustainable development

As a modality of education, training and professional experience, Australia Awards are intended to build skills and knowledge for participants and to enable them to develop relevant professional and personal networks. As part of the aid program, Australia Awards does this with the intention of contributing to sustainable development, including through contributing to human development and private sector growth across the priority areas of the Australian aid program.

Thus the first Long-term Outcome for the Australia Awards goes beyond just the development of skills, knowledge and networks of its alumni, to focus on those alumni *using* their skills, knowledge and networks for development benefits. This long-term outcome is also influenced by the extent to which the three other Long-term Outcomes are achieved: they can be understood as also contributing to this development-focussed outcome.

Partner governments have long acknowledged the contributions made by Australia Awards alumni to their workplaces and professional fields as one of the main reasons Australia Awards are so highly valued. Many partner governments demonstrate this by continuing to pay salaries to public servants who are awarded scholarships for study in Australia or the Pacific, by bonding alumni to return to work in their government employer after graduation, and in some cases by co-funding the participation of staff in short courses or fellowship activities.

Aligning Australia Awards with the broader aid program in each country or regional program can ensure that scholarships are directed to candidates from organisations and professional fields that are contributing to the critical development issues considered high priority by Australian and partner governments. It is important to recognise that even when selecting candidates from departments or organisations that are directly relevant to Australia's broader aid objectives, there is no guarantee they will return and remain in that employment.

Individuals are mobile (albeit to varying degrees depending on their employment conditions, which vary from country to country). Internationally recognised qualifications from Australia (or high quality training or professional experiences in Australia) can make people more attractive to new employers. Thus country or regional programs must consider the scope for individuals to contribute to development more broadly than just in terms of their existing employment.

The selection of high quality and appropriate candidates is the first test of program performance and an important major output of the Australia Awards. This applies to both long-term awards (scholarships) and to short-term activities: selecting the 'right' people for the 'right' activities is critical to maximising the benefits of the program.

Determining what the 'right' people and learnings are is the foundation of achieving a clear strategic intent for the program, in the context of the broader aid relationship. This will be calibrated for each individual country or regional program according to its context and focus. It includes identifying the priorities and targets to ensure the program also addresses access issues, making Australia Awards accessible to applicants in line with Australia's commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and disability inclusive development.

But the experience of studying and living in a new environment offers more than just the acquisition of technical skills and knowledge to expand one's professional capabilities. It also broadens students' perspective, can prompt them to become more open-minded and accepting of different cultures, behaviours, and ways of life, and to see new solutions to old problems. Beyond their workplace, alumni can have a considerable influence on their communities by applying new skills and new perspectives.

This Long-term Outcome of Australia Awards is thus concerned with the professional contributions, as well as those contributions alumni make more generally, as they participate in the development of their home countries.

2. Alumni are contributing to cooperation between Australia and partner countries

This Long-term Outcome is concerned with the contributions alumni make to the relationship between partner countries and Australia. These contributions could take a number of forms, and may be development-focused, or not.

They might be technical (using the skills and knowledge developed through Australia Awards); they could involve facilitating business or trade linkages; they could be involve participation in regional or international bodies that are relevant to the bilateral relationship (perhaps using networks or knowledge to enhance cooperation with Australia); or they may take the form of advocacy or facilitation of aspects of the relationship (drawing on a personal or professional positive disposition towards Australia).

Independent of the links created through study or training in Australia, and on return to their home countries, it is assumed that there will also be a more intangible connection with Australia for the men and women who study there. Even if alumni do not establish or maintain active links with Australian people or organisations, by having a positive view of Australia and Australians, they can contribute to an improved general perspective of Australia in their communities¹. Over the long-term this positive perception of Australia may have a positive influence on Australia's relationship with a partner country.

The cohort approach of Australia Awards fellowships and short courses particularly enables them to strengthen Australia's bilateral and regional relationships on priority issues and they can often include workshops; seminars; and meetings with Australian government departments (including DFAT), business and non-government organisations.

There is substantial anecdotal evidence that influential alumni within partner governments are receptive to approaches from Australia and are well disposed to Australian priorities. Australia's diplomats report the value of knowing that an interlocutor is an Australian alumni (either as a scholarship or as a privately-funded scholar), as it provides common ground on which to build understanding and communication. For this reason, it is essential that awardees have a positive experience while they are in Australia, whether for long or short-term activities.

DFAT will work with the institutions and organisations providing in Australia activities – universities, training organisations and fellowship grantees – to ensure they deliver through the achievement of Intermediate Outcomes (ii) and (iii), described below. DFAT will also play an increased role in connecting directly with awardees, both long and short-term, while they are in Australia, and after they return home through the implementation of the Australia Global Alumni network.

3. Effective, mutually advantageous partnerships between institutions and businesses in Australia and partner countries

Connections and networks are deliberately sought as part of Australia Awards. For Australia, the most valued of these connections are those between alumni and Australia, as they represent the people-to-people links that are important to broader bilateral relationships. These links may be useful in supporting development – as described above – but this outcome is broader than this. It values the links and networks between alumni and Australia for their own sake.

As part of Australia's economic and public diplomacy efforts, Australia Awards seek to contribute to building and enhancing links between organisations, including private sector organisations, in Australia and around

¹ As noted above, there is now evidence that positive public perceptions of a donor country can result from the achievement of positive development outcomes through a donor country's aid program.

the world. All elements of the program have the scope to contribute to links between organisations (scholarships, fellowships and short courses), with some more focused on this than others.

Australia Awards fellowships are specifically intended to support connections between government, business and non-government organisations in Australia and in partner countries. Short course awards, with their tailored approach to skills development, can include opportunities for awardees to connect with workplace opportunities; supplementary programs can include professional work placements or networking opportunities.

Scholarships can enable awardees to meet relevant Australian organisations while they are in Australia. All these activities can act to catalyse or enhance links between organisations. The enhanced investment in alumni engagement and support will provide an ongoing incentive to maintain these links.

Thus this Long-term Outcome articulates Australia's intention to see organisational links – in the private sector, in civil society, and in the public sector at all levels – developing as a result of Australia Awards activities. It looks beyond the individual links that are the focus of other Long-term Outcomes.

Implementation of the program will require DFAT and its implementing partners giving consideration to how best to enable and support these links at all stages of the award process, through the achievement of Intermediate Outcome (ii), described below.

4. Alumni view Australia, Australians, and Australian expertise positively

Alumni and their personal and professional attitudes to Australia are fundamental to their contributing to cooperation between Australia and their home countries, and more broadly to the bilateral relationship.

Alumni will not view Australia positively unless they leave Australia having had positive experiences, and continue to have positive experiences in their interactions with Australia and Australians post-award. Establishing links within Australia, and having a positive experience while in Australia on award, are the main ways the program seeks to invest in building a positive view of Australia. These people-to-people links have long been a feature of Australia's investment in scholarships and training. It has often been assumed that awardees will actually develop those links with Australians while they are in Australia, with little deliberate activity addressing this aim. However evidence suggests that a more deliberate approach is required², in order to achieve Intermediate Outcome (ii), described below.

DFAT is developing a framework to guide implementing stakeholders and ensure quality, consistency and equity in on-award engagement. The Australia Awards Linkages framework captures the ambition for Australia Awards scholars, beyond their academic qualification, to build enduring personal and professional links with Australian organisations and Australian individuals. The Australia Awards Linkages framework will help foster enduring and mutually beneficial links with Australia and the promotion of Australian values in our region. An increased investment in alumni activities, starting before awardees leave their home country and expanding once they have returned home, will also support the maintenance of the links and networks awardees develop while on award.

² Annual on Award Surveys show that just over a third of awardees (37%) report regular social interaction with Australians. Recent tracer studies in some countries also show ongoing links with alumni in other countries, but few sustained links with Australia or Australians.

Enabling Outcomes

Many factors will influence the extent to which an individual awardee will contribute to the Long-term Outcomes of Australia Awards. Many of these are well beyond the scope of the Australia Awards, or Australia, to influence and are not reflected in the program logic. Examples are shifts in the political or economic environment for alumni, or changes in personal circumstances, which make it difficult or impossible for them to contribute as intended.

Several important factors, however, *are* of concern to DFAT, and are within the capacity of DFAT to influence. They must be the subject of deliberate and strategic effort by DFAT, to the extent that is possible.

For this reason, these outcomes are shown as Enabling Outcomes in the logic model:

- (a) Employers deploy alumni so they can use their skills, knowledge and networks*
- (b) Employers remain engaged with awardees and fellows*

Without opportunities to make use of their new skills, knowledge and networks, the ability of alumni to contribute to development or the relationship with Australia will be substantially weakened. For those alumni who retain their employment while on award, and who return to that employment after graduation, their home organisations must remain connected with their staff while they participate in Australia Awards.

Without this they are unlikely to make best use of their returning staff, or to connect with the networks and organisational links the Australia Awards supports. In these cases, the employer is the focus for DFAT engagement. For the many alumni who return home to new employment, DFAT should engage with new employers – where feasible – to advocate for the effective deployment of alumni so they can use their skills, knowledge and networks.

The inclusion of these outcomes in the logic emphasises the importance of the DFAT role in actively engaging with organisations, leaders, and program participants throughout the Australia Awards cycle, including through enhanced alumni engagement and support after their award is completed. This is necessary so that awardees and their employing organisations make the best possible use of the skills, knowledge, networks and other experiences that come from an Australia Award.

However it is clear that the employment and deployment of alumni is something DFAT can seek to influence, at best, as the context is complex and often political. It is also an issue of concern not just to Australia Awards. The role of other Australian aid program work in these enabling outcomes is equally important: efforts in effective governance and in engagements in other priority sectors of the aid program in each partner country can also influence the effective utilisation of alumni skills, knowledge and networks.

Intermediate Outcomes

The Long-term Outcomes described above will be realised through the achievement of the Intermediate Outcomes, which, in turn, will result from the Outputs. The Outputs can be understood as the most direct result of Australia Awards, and those which are most substantively within the capacity of DFAT, contractors, institutions and training and fellowship providers to control. The Intermediate Outcomes – described below – are the subsequent steps along the pathway towards achieving the Long-term Outcomes.

(i) Alumni have necessary skills and knowledge to contribute to development

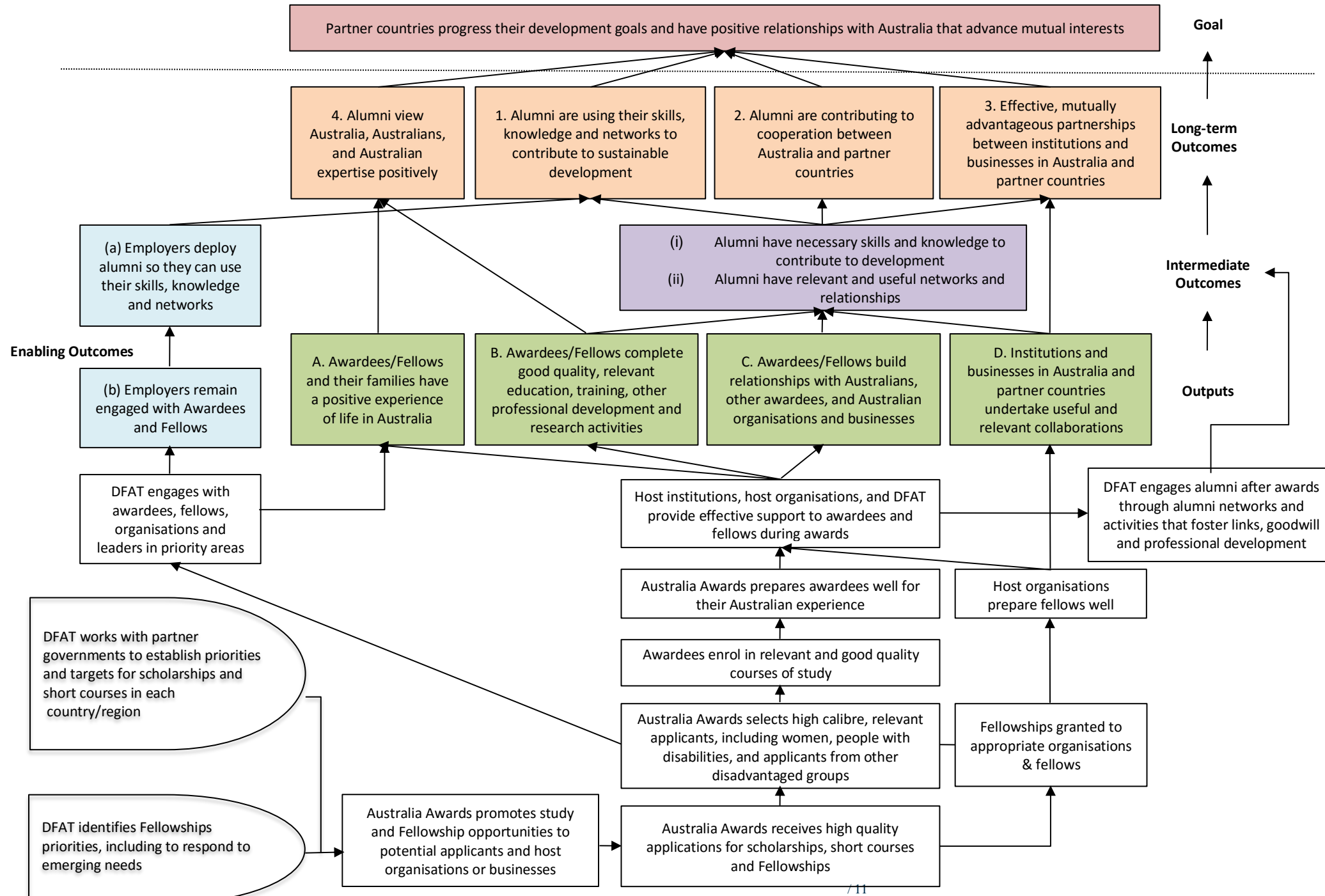
In order to develop the skills and knowledge that are relevant to their work and professional development – the Intermediate Outcome described here – awardees must complete relevant, good quality and useful activities through their award (which is Output B). This emphasises the requirement that Australia Awards country or regional programs must identify and support participation in those courses and fellowships that link directly to the priorities of the country or regional aid program, and of the individual awardees.

Bilateral and regional programs will do this through the efforts of DFAT posts and contractors to undertake good quality planning, promotion and selection processes, and to place awardees in high quality and relevant courses and fellowships. This can be understood as very much the core business of Australia Awards.

(ii) Alumni have relevant and useful networks and relationships

The people-to-people and organisational links that are sought through Australia Awards, and which underpin the aim of the Australia Awards to contribute to the achievement of development goals in the region, will be developed during the time that awardees are participating in their scholarships, fellowship or short course.

Thus attention and effort is required to ensure that Output C is achieved (*Awardees and Fellows build relationships with Australians, other awardees, and Australian organisations and businesses*) as well as Output D (*Institutions and businesses in Australia and partner countries undertake useful and relevant collaborations*). Only in this case can Intermediate Outcome (ii) be achieved, with the relevant and useful networks and relationships thus laying the foundation for the achievement of Long-term Outcomes 2 and 4.



Using the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

All bilateral and regional programs are required to meet a number of corporate performance monitoring and reporting requirements. The M&E tools and approaches set out in this MEF are designed to ensure programs can utilise the necessary data to complete these planning and reporting requirements, which include:

- Aid Investment Plans (AIPs) set out the direction for a country or regional program and link objectives, aid programming and results. AIPs are a core aid management tool. They describe where, why and how Australian aid will be delivered and the expected results to be achieved in a country or region. AIPs present a line of sight from Australia's national interests, strategic priorities and objectives, as well as current and planned investments to expected results. An AIP assists effective aid planning, transparency and accountability and should be based on evidence and lessons captured through monitoring and evaluation activities.
- Aid Quality Checks (AQC) assess and report how individual aid investments are performing against six recognised aid quality criteria: efficiency, effectiveness, gender equality, M&E, sustainability and relevance. Full AQC are required for high risk investments or those of more than \$10m funding; Streamlined AQC are required for smaller or low risk investments. Thus Australia Awards investments will be reported through a mix of AQC and Streamlined AQC, but both must utilise the data collected through the tools described below. Programs can refer to specific guidance on completing AQC for Australia Awards investments (AQC Supplementary Guidance for Australia Awards Programs).
- All country and region aid programs prepare annual Aid Program Performance Reports (APPRs), which report progress towards aid objectives. APPRs should make full use of data collected through the tools described below when reporting the performance of Australia Awards.

In order to meet these reporting requirements, and any additional reporting required in future, country and regional programs should use this MEF to ensure the M&E arrangements for Australia Awards in their program are adequate. Managing contractors should be required to review their M&E systems for alignment; programs managed by posts should do the same and seek additional support from AWB if necessary.

The MEF will be reviewed and updated as necessary by AWB to ensure it remains relevant and useful, and further guidance is detailed in the *Global Strategy*.

Monitoring and Evaluation Tools

This MEF relies on a set of M&E tools – activities and sources of information – to provide the evidence necessary for management and reporting. A number of these are already established and providing the necessary data. Others require further systematisation, are in development, or must be developed in order to fulfil the requirements of effective monitoring, evaluation and management of Australia Awards at the global level. Within this set of M&E tools, several should be understood as the minimum requirements for all programs implementing Australia Awards; others are optional and should be included when relevant and possible for specific investments.

Tool	Required/ Optional	Status
Awardee information (including application, academic progress and pastoral care data), stored in OASIS	Required by all programs	Established
On Award Surveys	Required by all programs	Established
Alumni information, stored in the Australia Global Alumni network	Required by all programs	Established and being enhanced further
Managing Contractor M&E	Required by all outsourced programs	Established
Tracer Studies	Required by all programs	Global Tracer Facility established in 2016
Other Post-Award Outcome Evaluations	Optional	
Fellowships management information, stored in SmartyGrants	Required by all programs	Established and being enhanced further
Short Course Awards M&E	Optional	
Media Monitoring	Required by all programs	Requires systematisation across posts
Post-managed Program M&E	Required by all programs	Requires development
Other Evaluation studies	Optional	

Details of each of these are provided below.

Awardee Data (stored in OASIS)

The Online Australia Awards Scholarships Information System (OASIS) is the global database for the administration and financial management of DFAT's long-term scholarships. All posts have access to OASIS. OASIS manages data on awardees from the time of application/selection^[1] until the time of their completion and return home. Once awardees commence their studies, data is managed by their academic institution, although it is accessed by posts, AWB and (in some cases) managing contractors.

OASIS is the central mechanism by which DFAT can examine the cohort of long-term awardees across the global Australia Awards. It provides common data across all awardees enabling comparison and aggregation, and offers some scope for additional development to increase its capacity to support global level M&E through expanding the common fields of data. DFAT uses the MicroStrategy reporting tool to query data in OASIS and to produce reports as required.

^[1] Not all country programs use OASIS for the application process, mainly due to concerns about limiting the participation of potential applicants with limited internet access. For M&E purposes it would be best if all programs moved to OASIS over time, or at least they need to maintain statistics on the characteristics of the applicant cohort, and not just those who are successful.

On Award Surveys

AWB maintains a contract with a commercial survey company to undertake two regular surveys of Australia Award scholarship awardees: the **Arrival Surveys**, (Semesters 1 and 2) shortly after their arrival in Australia, and the **Ongoing Survey**, annually for all current awardees. The surveys collect feedback from the awardees on many aspects of their experiences with Australia Awards, such as:

- The application, selection and mobilisation processes
- The pre-departure briefing they received before departing for Australia
- The support received from their institution on arrival, to settle in, and to begin their studies
- The ongoing support from their institution throughout their studies, to assist with addressing academic issues, personal issues and other difficulties
- The adequacy of support received from DFAT, including entitlements
- Any experiences with discrimination
- Their experiences interacting with Australians on a social level

The On Award Surveys are conducted online, and include only long-term scholarship awardees (i.e. not those undertaking fellowships or short-courses). Global data reports from the surveys are provided to AWB and reports of country-specific, regional or institution-specific data are distributed to the relevant posts and academic institutions.

The two surveys are well established and provide consistently good quality data. The surveys were reviewed in 2016 to reduce the burden on awardees and include questions aligning to the four long-term outcomes.

Alumni information in the Australia Global Alumni network

DFAT has established the Australia Global Alumni network, which stores alumni information in a searchable form. Data from OASIS migrates daily to the network once institutions complete the record in OASIS.

The Australia Global Alumni network is mandated as the DFAT whole-of-government centralised system for managing data regarding Australia Awards scholarship alumni. Posts are encouraged to use the Australia Global Alumni network as the primary system as the system improves, but may still maintain their own systems where necessary in the short-term. In the longer term, DFAT aims to consolidate country and regional alumni databases and migrate all alumni data to the Australia Global Alumni network. This will occur once enhancements have been made to the scope of data held and its administrative and reporting functionalities, and after consultation with posts.

As the data set expands, and the systems and practices to maintain that data are established, the Australia Global Alumni network will provide increasingly comprehensive data about alumni and their post-award pathways, complemented by tracer studies and evaluations (see below).

Managing Contractor Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

As noted above, most major country programs of Australia Awards are supported by managing contractors, who develop and operate monitoring and evaluation systems tailored to the specific requirements of the relevant country or regional program. These systems complement global systems such as OASIS and the Australia Global Alumni network, and generally provide additional details of program delivery in areas such as: management performance and efficiency; selection outcomes in line with the specific objectives of each country program; post-award outcomes for awardees such as employment or promotions; small grant details or detailed qualitative information from evaluations, alumni impact assessments and case studies.

Post-award outcomes evaluation is of particular importance for Australia Awards and the approach taken by managing contractors varies considerably across programs. Tools and methods include tracer studies, post-award surveys, alumni impact assessments, case studies and other small-scale evaluation studies.

Current practice sees managing contractors develop M&E systems on a program-by-program basis in line with individual program contracts (i.e. usually on a country-by-country basis). There is scope to bring these systems and processes into greater alignment with more common features and methods, thus delivering efficiencies as well as more uniform information that can be routinely aggregated or analysed to support global monitoring.

Monitoring & Evaluation by Post-Managed Programs

Those programs that are not supported by a managing contractor generally have minimal formal M&E, and generally collect, analyse and report less than other Australia Awards programs. Good practice suggests that these remaining programs warrant an investment of time and resources to bring their monitoring and evaluation into alignment with the rest of Australia Awards. This must be done even in the absence of a managing contractor, possibly through the engagement of a stand-alone M&E contractor, or through the allocation of sufficient and skilled staff resources within the relevant geographic division of DFAT or AWB.

The Australia Awards Good Practice Note provides specific additional guidance for post-managed programs regarding M&E.

Tracer Studies and Post-Award Outcomes Evaluations

There are various ways to explore the outcomes of Australia Awards scholarships, fellowships and short courses. Tracer Studies are central amongst the possible approaches, and are an important tool to seek information about the experiences and outcomes for alumni after the completion of their award. They have been undertaken inconsistently over the history of Australia Awards and its predecessors, using a diverse range of methods. This has made it difficult for the Australian Government to report on the Long-term Outcomes of the scholarships program at the global level.

Through AWB, DFAT has taken two important steps to address this: first, it has piloted a refined and simplified qualitative tracer study method in the South Asia program and roll it out globally. Once institutionalised, a common tracer study method used consistently and regularly across Australia Awards globally will enable genuine and in depth exploration of the extent to which Australia Awards is achieving positive and sustained long-term outcomes.

Secondly, AWB, DFAT has established a **Global Tracer Facility** (the Facility) in 2016 that will manage a program of consistent and high quality tracer studies across all Australia Awards scholarships and fellowships. The Facility will also play a role in supporting and advising DFAT on the establishment of a more consistent and coherent overall approach to post-award M&E, utilising the full range of tools including tracer studies, alumni impact assessments (or similar), case studies and other evaluations.

One of the key matters for the Facility will be defining its alignment, interface and complementarity with managing contractor post-award M&E activities. This may warrant a flexible approach so the Facility can provide differential support depending on the specific needs of each program and each post (particularly those not supported by a managing contractor).

Fellowships Monitoring & Evaluation

Fellowships monitoring and evaluation data is stored in DFAT's grant management system, SmartyGrants, and is drawn from. The SmartyGrants system is being refined and reporting information increasingly made more accessible for M&E purposes. The expectation is that the MicroStrategy reporting tool used to query data in OASIS will soon be able to query SmartyGrants data too, enabling increased analysis and reporting of Fellowships data. In addition, from 2014 fellows will be included on the Australia Global Alumni network.

Overall M&E responsibility of fellowships rests with AWB, and is guided by the Fellowships Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The Facility will conduct regular surveys and tracer studies of fellows after they have completed their fellowships which will substantially enhance the evaluation of the outcomes of fellowships.

Short Course Awards Monitoring & Evaluation

Some country programs offer Australia Awards short courses as well as long-term scholarships. Some short course awards are monitored and reported by managing contractors as part of their M&E systems; others are delivered on an ad hoc basis, with limited reporting. There is currently no global system (like OASIS) that brings together data on short courses – who is participating, what sectors or fields are the courses in, who is delivering them, what are the outcomes – for DFAT's use. Neither is there a systematic approach to evaluating the outcomes of short courses. DFAT requires routine access to good quality data that supports the requirements of this MEF.

AWB is pursuing options to establish a global short course facility, which would provide an additional mechanism for country programs and other DFAT sections to deliver Australia Awards short courses. A global facility would also undertake monitoring and evaluation, reflecting similar requirements as long-term scholarships. However, regardless of whether a global short course facility is established, AWB is placing a high priority on developing a stronger approach to short course M&E.

Media Monitoring

Many posts undertake, or commission, routine monitoring of local print and electronic media for mentions of Australia and the Australian relationship. The take-up of post public communications efforts – including the aid program and its activities and achievements – is a key driver for this monitoring, but it also provides opportunities to monitor the perceptions of Australia and Australia Awards as well as the activities of alumni. However the extent and nature of post media monitoring, and its use, varies considerably depending on the size and political significance of the post. AWB has responsibility for in-Australia media monitoring and for making the data collected through this process available to relevant posts and programs.

AWB and country programs could make greater use of routine media monitoring to inform the assessment of progress towards the intended outcomes of Australia Awards.

Other Evaluation Studies

Some aspects of the outcomes of Australia Awards may not be fully captured with the routine activities outlined above, and will need further investigation through specific evaluation studies. One likely issue requiring targeted evaluation is the success in enabling the development and maintenance of linkages between organisations and businesses (Long-term Outcome 3) – a series of Periodic Linkages Evaluations may be necessary. The Global Tracer Facility may be tasked to undertake such evaluation studies, but separate evaluation commissions may be more appropriate. DFAT may also propose a survey of relevant staff to seek feedback on the extent to which they see Australia Awards alumni and other activities such as Fellowships contributing to broader bilateral or regional relationships.

M&E Framework

Logic Reference	Data Source	Responsibility	M&E Use
Long-term Outcomes			
1. Alumni are using their skills, knowledge and networks to contribute to sustainable development	Tracer Studies Case Studies Fellowship Evaluation/Tracer Study	Global Tracer Facility	DFAT report outcomes of Australia Awards at global and country levels as well as by sector Well-informed management decisions at global and country levels DFAT and contractors build understanding of what enables and constrains achievement of outcomes Public communication about Australia Awards Corporate/aid program reporting requirements e.g. AQC's and APPRs
	Case Studies, Alumni Impact Assessments, other Outcomes Evaluations	Posts and/or Managing Contractors	
	Media Monitoring	Posts	
2. Alumni are contributing to cooperation between Australia and partner countries	Tracer Studies Case Studies Fellowship Evaluation/Tracer Study	Global Tracer Facility	
	Alumni Impact Assessments, other Outcomes Evaluations	Posts and/or Managing Contractors	
	Media Monitoring	Posts, AWB	
	Post Staff Survey	AWB	
3. Effective, mutually advantageous partnerships between institutions and businesses in Australia and partner countries	Tracer Studies Case Studies	Global Tracer Facility	
	Alumni Impact Assessments, other Outcomes Evaluations	Posts and/or Managing Contractors	
	Post Fellowship Evaluation	Global Tracer Facility or AWB	
	Post Media Monitoring	Posts	

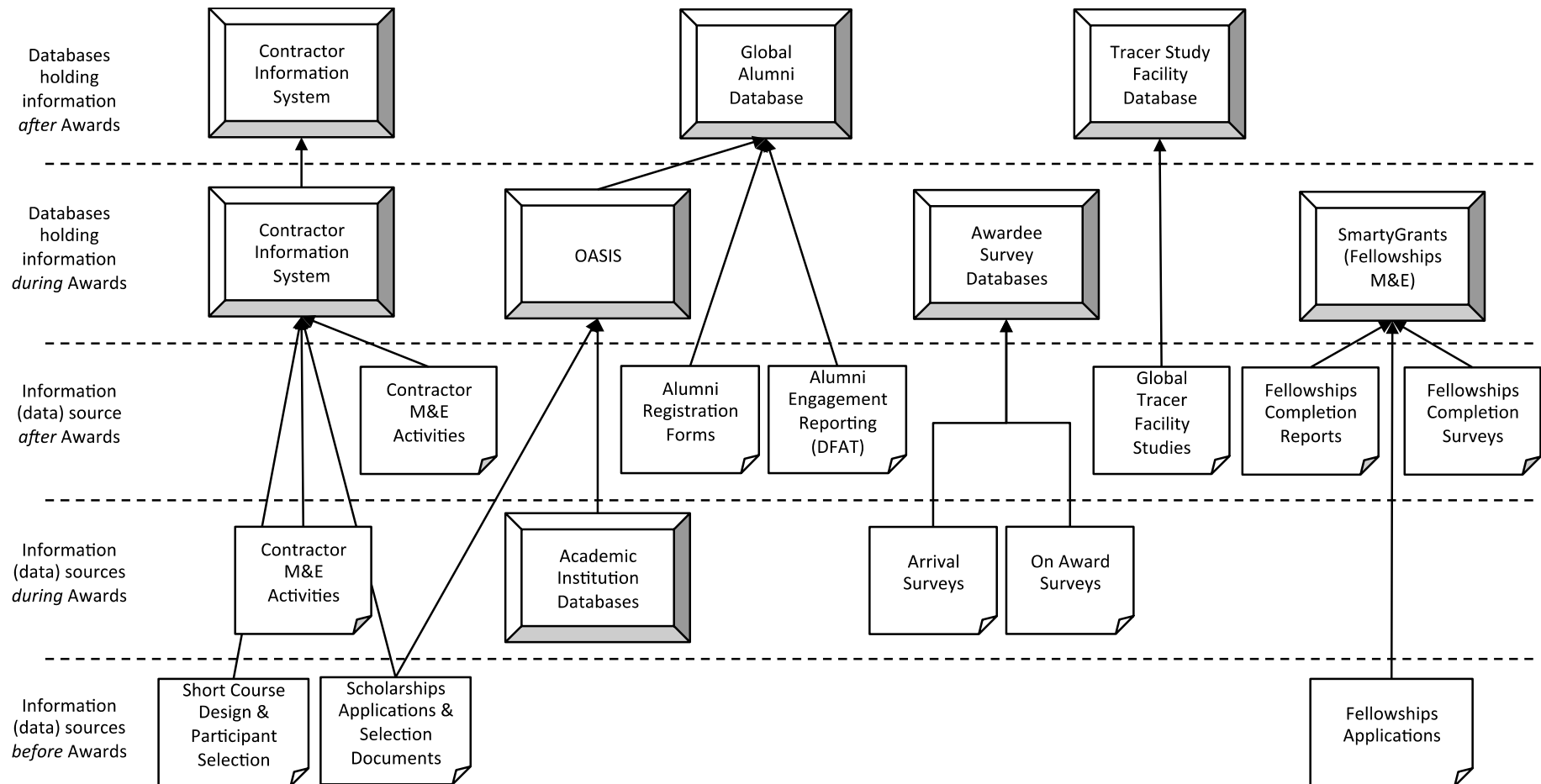
Logic Reference	Data Source	Responsibility	M&E Use
	Periodic Linkages Evaluation	AWB	
4. Alumni view Australia, Australians and Australian expertise positively	Tracer Studies Case Studies Fellowship Evaluation/ Tracer Study	Global Tracer Facility	
	Case Studies, Alumni Impact Assessments, other Outcomes Evaluations	Post and/or Managing Contractors	
Intermediate Outcomes			
(i) Alumni have necessary skills and knowledge to contribute to development	Tracer Studies Case Studies Fellowship Evaluation/ Tracer Study	Global Tracer Facility	Public communication about Australia Awards DFAT and contractors build understanding of what enables and constrains achievement of outcomes – and use that understanding to continually improve program implementation Aid program reporting on the outcomes of Australia Awards Corporate/aid program reporting requirements e.g. AQC's and APPRs
	Case Studies, Alumni Impact Assessments, other Outcomes Evaluations	Post and/or Managing Contractors	
(ii) Alumni have relevant and useful networks and relationships	Tracer Studies Case Studies Fellowship Evaluation/ Tracer Study	Global Tracer Facility	
	Case Studies, Alumni Impact Assessments, other Outcomes Evaluations	Post and/or Managing Contractors	
Outputs			

Logic Reference	Data Source	Responsibility	M&E Use
A. Awardees/Fellows and their families have a positive experience of life in Australia	On Award Surveys	Survey Contractor	DFAT and contractors adjust pre-departure preparation as required Academic institutions and DFAT adjust the support and engagement activities they provide on award
B. Awardees/Fellows complete good quality, relevant education, training, other professional development and research activities	OASIS	Academic Institutions	AWB monitoring of academic institution performance in supporting awardees (i.e. DFAT contract management)
	On Award Surveys (Arrival and Ongoing)	Survey Contractor/AWB	
	Australian Government Staff Survey	AWB	DFAT monitoring of extent to which Australia Awards are aligning with broader bilateral and regional priorities (relevance)
	Fellowships monitoring and Activity Completion Report	Host organisations	AWB monitoring of host institutions support for Fellows
C. Awardees/Fellows build relationships with Australians, other awardees, and Australian organisations and businesses	Academic institutions' and host organisations' records of activities	Academic institutions	AWB monitoring of academic institution performance in supporting awardees (i.e. DFAT contract management)
	Contractor records of on award activities (if provided)	Managing Contractors	Program monitoring of any additional on award support provided by contractors
	On Award Surveys (Arrival and Ongoing)	Survey Contractor/AWB	
	DFAT records of DFAT-led on-award engagement/ facilitation of networking for awardees (both DFAT Canberra and State Offices)	AWB DFAT State Offices	DFAT monitoring of on award engagement
	Fellowships monitoring	Host organisations	AWB monitoring of host institutions support for Fellows

Logic Reference	Data Source	Responsibility	M&E Use
D. Institutions and businesses in Australia and partner countries undertake useful and relevant collaborations	Fellowships monitoring	Host organisations AWB	AWB monitoring of Fellowship implementation
Enabling Outcomes			
(a) Employers deploy alumni so they can use their skills, knowledge and networks	Tracer Studies Case Studies	Global Tracer Facility	
(b) Employers remain engaged with Awardees and Fellows	Managing Contractor M&E	Managing Contractors Host organisations	

Information Flows

Information is drawn from a number of sources throughout the cycle of Australia Awards planning, implementation, and evaluation, and is stored in several different ways. The diagram below provides an overview of the main sources and repositories of this information, to assist programs understand where to draw from in seeking to ensure good quality monitoring and evaluation for their implementation of Australia Awards.



Responsibilities and Timeframes for Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

Organisation	Pre Award	On Award	Post Award (0-3 years)	Long term Post Award (3 years+)
Country and regional programs – Posts and/or their Managing Contractors	Ensure OASIS is up to date Maintain and monitor records of promotion, targeting, selection activities Monitor trends in application and selection data	Ensure OASIS is up to date Maintain records of on award engagement (if applicable) Media monitoring	Ensure Australia Global Alumni network is up to date Maintain records of alumni engagement Media monitoring Undertake Post-Award Evaluations, Impact Studies and Case Studies – copies of all these documents are to be provided to AWB.	Ensure Australia Global Alumni network is up to date. Maintain records of alumni engagement Assist Global Tracer Facility with tracer studies as required. Maintain records of alumni engagement Media monitoring
Australia Awards and Alumni Branch (AWB)	Monitor trends in Fellowships application and selection data Monitor global trends in scholarships application and selection data.	On Award Surveys (via Contractor) Maintain records of on award engagement (if applicable) Analysis and distribution of OASIS data as required	Monitor automatic migration of OASIS data into Australia Global Alumni network Add additional alumni details into Australia Global Alumni network as required Activity Completion Report and Fellows completion report Commission evaluation studies e.g. Periodic Linkages Evaluation Monitor alumni engagement plans	Commission evaluation studies – such as Periodic Linkages Evaluation Direct the activities of the Global Tracer Facility
Global Tracer Facility				Tracer Studies, Impact Studies and Case Studies Evaluation Studies

Organisation	Pre Award	On Award	Post Award (0-3 years)	Long term Post Award (3 years+)
Academic Institutions		Ensure OASIS is up to date	Share updated alumni details with DFAT (if agreed)	Share updated alumni details with DFAT (if agreed)
Host organisations (Fellowships)		Fellowships Monitoring	Completion reports	
DFAT State Offices		Maintain records of on award engagement (if applicable)		

Language and Terminology

Evaluation	An assessment of a planned, ongoing or completed intervention to determine its relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. The intent is to make judgements about the merit or worth of an intervention, and to inform program improvements (management) as well as accountability.
Monitoring	The regular collection and analysis of information to provide indicators of progress towards objectives. Includes monitoring inputs, processes (activities), outputs and progress towards outcomes.
Outcome	The changes that are expected to occur after the delivery of an output or several outputs. They describe an end state – how things are – not <i>how</i> they are achieved.

Outcomes are sometimes broken down as follows:

- *Immediate outcome* – may occur immediately after an output has been produced (for example, literacy training completed for a district);
- *Intermediate outcome* – sometimes these are included to show outcomes to be achieved in the interim, during implementation
- *Long-term outcome* – an outcome achieved in the medium term that contribute towards achievement of a goal or long term outcome (for example, full literacy achieved in the 10 poorest areas of Fiji)

We are accountable for outcomes, but don't necessarily control their achievement (unlike outputs – see below).

Outputs	The tangible (easily measurable, practical), immediate and intended products of an intervention. This could be goods, services or infrastructure produced, or events resulting directly from an intervention, such as adults completing literacy courses, or new businesses established. Generally outputs are within the control of the program to deliver.
Indicators	Specific evidence that shows progress (or not) towards objectives. Evidence can be quantitative (a number) or qualitative (not a number). In order for the indicators to be useful for monitoring and evaluation, it is important to identify indicators that are relevant, objective, practical and adequate, and to regularly update them.
Results	Specific data against an indicator describing either an intended result (i.e. a target) or the result actually achieved

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