As our nearest neighbour, close regional partner and with strong people-to-people links, Australia has an enduring interest in a stable and prosperous PNG.

Strategic direction

Australia is PNG’s largest development partner, although our assistance only provides eight per cent of PNG’s national budget. Australia’s partnership has three strategic objectives: promoting effective governance (SDG16 and SDG17); enabling economic growth (SDG8); and enhancing human development (SDG3 and SDG4). Gender equality (SDG5) is a cross-cutting issue for all programs.

Our program draws on expertise from across the Australian Government and the private sector to achieve development outcomes for PNG. Our work contributes to PNG’s progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Program highlights

- Supported the maintenance and reconstruction of over 1,700 kilometres of roads in 2018.
- Continued construction of the Coral Sea Cable to dramatically boost internet speeds in PNG to enhance economic growth. The project is on track for completion early in 2020.
- Helped vaccinate over 3.3 million children for polio, interrupting the spread of the disease.
- Helped build 23 fully equipped community health posts in rural and remote areas.

*Data sourced from the World Bank