Australia has an enduring interest in Tonga’s stability and prosperity. Australia supports economic reform, private sector development, stronger health systems and skills development.

Strategic direction

Australia’s three strategic objectives in Tonga, which align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are to:

- enable economic stability and growth (SDG8);
- strengthen the health system (SDG3) and reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs); and
- support skills development (SDG4), with a particular focus on opportunities for women (SDG5) and people with a disability (SDG10).

We also continue to address the cross-cutting issues of climate change adaptation (SDG13), disaster resilience and preparedness, gender equality (SDG5) and disability inclusion (SDG10).

Program highlights

- Australia was one of the first to respond when Tropical Cyclone Gita struck in February 2018 (providing 135 tonnes of emergency supplies) and is a major contributor to reconstruction ($14 million in total).
- Economic reforms supported by the development cooperation program have helped increase revenues and strengthen procurement.
- We are helping to address the burden of NCDs through improved primary care; the provision of mobility devices like wheelchairs and prosthetics; and helping people quit smoking with a national anti-tobacco campaign.
- Australia offered 34 Australia Awards scholarships for Tongans to commence study in 2018: (13 in Australia; 21 in the Pacific) and supported 25 Australian Volunteers for International Development in 2018-19

For more details:

- Australia-Tonga Aid Partnership (2016 - 2019)
- Tonga Aid Investment Plan 2015-16 to 2018-19