



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Aid Program Performance Report 2014-15

Fiji

November 2015

Key Messages

This Aid Program Performance Report (APPR) summarises the Australian aid program's progress in Fiji from July 2014 to June 2015. Australia's total overseas development assistance to Fiji in 2014-15 was \$62.8 million including \$32.9 million in bilateral aid and \$29.9 million delivered through regional and global programs. Fiji receives significant support through Pacific regional programs. This report focuses on bilateral development assistance to Fiji.

Australia's aid program to Fiji recorded some strong achievements in 2014-15 including:

- Support to Fiji to conduct its first national elections in eight years including technical assistance, assistance in the electronic voter registration process and co-leading the Multinational Observer Group along with India and Indonesia.
- Support for the Ministry of Health to develop a fully-costed 10-year workforce plan, which resulted in 350 new doctors' and nurses' positions being funded in Fiji's 2015 National budget.
- Development of a policy on minimum infrastructure standards for all schools and training of over 1000 school officials in financial management. Leveraging of over \$2 million in private sector investment, generating \$840,000 in new business activity and increasing the incomes of 1016 poor men and women.

Context

2014 marked an important milestone for the people of Fiji, democratically electing their first government since the 2006 coup. The new Fijian Government has already invested in major social initiatives such as free medicines for low income families, road infrastructure upgrades and electricity and water subsidies for the poor. Fiji's economy grew by an impressive 5.3 per cent in 2014¹.

Fiji is on track to achieve Millennium Development Goals numbers 2, 4, 5 and 7² (education, reduction in child and maternal mortality and environmental sustainability). Over 94 per cent of school aged children are enrolled in school, with equal numbers of girls and boys in primary and secondary education. Fiji has also increased access to safe water and sanitation, and developed a Green Growth Framework to integrate environmental sustainability into policy and planning.

Despite this progress, Fiji still faces challenges in addressing its development objectives. Sustained private sector led economic growth is needed to create jobs and enable continued government investment in social services. Remoteness from major markets, a high regulatory environment and poor transport and energy infrastructure, pose challenges to achieving sustainable growth. Limited economic opportunities contribute to high poverty levels, particularly in rural and remote communities³. With more than 15 per cent of the population now living in informal settlements, the strain on urban infrastructure and services is showing.

The quality of essential social services has been challenged by the loss of skilled personnel resulting from migration and the mandatory retirement age of 55 years. Life expectancy rates

¹ Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Release NO. 52, 2015

² <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/documents-publications/millennium-development-goals-1/>

³ 43 per cent of rural households live in poverty compared to 19 per cent in urban areas: Fiji Bureau of Statistics, May 2012 (based on 2008-9 data – more current data is currently not available)

have stagnated⁴ and Fiji faces a major health challenge of non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension causing the majority of deaths. Despite some recent progress in women's political leadership, female participation in the labour force is about half that of men⁵, and rates of domestic violence remain high⁶. People living with disabilities have limited access to basic services including education and health care.

Australia has long been Fiji's largest bilateral grant donor, contributing 45% of Fiji's ODA in 2014. ODA is, however, only a small percentage of government revenue and was the equivalent of 2.7 per cent of Fijian government spending in 2014. Australia coordinates closely with other donors in Fiji which include the European Union, Japan and New Zealand. China and India have increased their assistance to Fiji. The Asian Development Bank has committed to a USD 250 million lending program mainly for transport infrastructure and the World Bank is preparing a country strategy for Fiji that will be the basis of new loans in 2016.

Expenditure

In 2014-15, Australia delivered \$62.8 million in official development assistance, including \$32.9 million through the Fiji bilateral aid program, and \$29.9 million delivered through DFAT's Pacific regional and global programs.

Table 1 Total ODA Expenditure in FY 2014-15

Objective	A\$ million	% of total ODA
<i>Bilateral</i>		
Improving access to quality education	10	16
Strengthening primary health services	5.5	9
Building resilience and economic opportunities in disadvantaged communities	6	9.5
Governance	4	6.5
Scholarships	6.4	10
Gender	1	1.5
Sub-Total Bilateral	32.9	
Regional and Global	27.2	43.5
Other Government Departments	2.7	4
Total ODA Expenditure	62.8	100

Progress towards Objectives

Australia's bilateral development assistance to Fiji focused on three development objectives:

- Improving access to quality education;
- Strengthening primary health services; and
- Building resilience and economic opportunities in disadvantaged communities.

The Fiji program maintained a green rating against all three objectives for the third consecutive year.

⁴ Fiji Health Sector Situational Report, Health Resource Facility 2015


⁵ Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Employment and Unemployment Survey, 2010-2011


⁶ Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, Somebody's Life, Everybody's Business, 2013


Table 2 Rating of the Program's Progress towards Australia's Aid Objectives

Objective	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Improving access to quality education	Green	Green
Strengthening primary health services	Green	Green
Building resilience and economic opportunities in disadvantaged communities	Green	Green

Note:

 **Green.** Progress is as expected at this stage of implementation and it is likely that the objective will be achieved. Standard program management practices are sufficient.

 **Amber.** Progress is somewhat less than expected at this stage of implementation and restorative action will be necessary if the objective is to be achieved. Close performance monitoring is recommended.

 **Red.** Progress is significantly less than expected at this stage of implementation and the objective is not likely to be met given available resources and priorities. Recasting the objective may be required.

Objective 1: Improving access to quality education

Australia remains Fiji's largest donor in the education sector. The sector is undergoing significant change, primarily driven by the fast-paced reform agenda of the Minister for Education. In 2014, the Fijian Government declared education a national priority, implementing fee-free primary and secondary education and free milk for all Year One students. The Ministry has also introduced a large number of new technical schools, curriculum reforms, examination and assessment changes and a new school performance assessment system. The fast pace of these reforms has resulted in capacity constraints and challenges in the Ministry of Education (MOE). Australian aid assisted Fiji's MOE to implement some of these new initiatives.

In its fourth year of operation, the benefits of the Access to Quality Education Program (AQEP) are beginning to show in the 85 AQEP targeted schools, which constitute 12% of Fiji's primary schools and were selected in areas of greatest socio-economic disadvantage across the country. The AQEP's investments are also strengthening education systems that are beneficial to all schools in the country, particularly through the development of the region's most advanced Education Management Information System and support to digitalise literacy and numeracy data so that it can be analysed and used in real time.

The AQEP has 21 end-of-program outcomes and is on track to meet 16 and partially on track for the remaining 5. This objective received a 'green' rating as it delivered good results in all three priority areas.

- 1. Increasing access and quality.** The AQEP aims to increase enrolment and attendance of disadvantaged children through school based management grants. With the AQEP's assistance, rural and remote schools have been encouraging increased student attendance by improving accommodation, food and recreational standards for boarding students in targeted schools.

The AQEP is also supporting improvements in education quality and learning outcomes in targeted schools, with student test results in literacy improving. The proportion of students in the bottom quartile of the Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (LANA) test results has dropped significantly for literacy in the AQEP supported schools. In 2014-15, 23% of Year 4 students in the AQEP supported schools were in the bottom quartile for literacy, compared to 32% in 2011. This improvement met the AQEP intermediate target and is a result of the provision of teaching and learning resources to the AQEP schools (e.g. 106,920 textbooks provided for all class levels in the AQEP schools) and support for schools to develop strategies to assist slow readers.

2. **Improving school infrastructure.** The AQEP invests in school infrastructure to provide students and teachers with a better learning environment. Together, the AQEP and the MOE developed a policy on minimum infrastructure standards for all schools. In 2014-15, the AQEP invested in upgrading 96 classrooms, directly benefitting over 2,500 students.
3. **Supporting the Ministry of Education.** In 2014-15, the AQEP supported financial management training at the MOE's request, enabling 1,104 officials (teachers, MOE officials and school management committee members – covering every primary and secondary school in Fiji) to be trained in time to receive the new fee-free education grants to schools. This brought the total number of officials trained through the AQEP to 4,810.

Gender equality is a core objective of the AQEP which benefits both boys and girls in improving enrolment, attendance and learning outcomes. Where there are specific barriers for girls, such as ensuring the availability of appropriate feminine hygiene facilities, the AQEP monitors these and helps schools to address them. The AQEP organised a Women in Leadership Conference in March. For the first time, this Conference brought together female head teachers and school managers, who still remain a large minority, to provide leadership training, networking opportunities and promotion of gender equality in senior school positions. The AQEP has also required all schools to have one female cheque signatory, thereby helping to elevate the status of women leaders at the school and promote gender equality in decision-making.

Disability inclusiveness is also a key focus of the AQEP, aiming to enable children with disabilities to have improved access to mainstream schools through advocacy, training and addressing barriers to access. The Minister for Education launched the Toolkit for Disability Inclusive Education in Fiji, an AQEP initiative in collaboration with the MOE. 18 additional students with a disability were enrolled in the five demonstration schools the AQEP is supporting to become disability inclusive, bringing the total to 100 (65 boys, 35 girls).

The biggest challenge for the AQEP is sustainability and translating its successes into broader learnings and approaches by other schools supported by the Ministry of Education. Complicating this is the fact that the current pace of education reform in Fiji is seeing schools struggle to keep up with a multitude of changes. Australia will continue to work closely with the education sector and support the MOE through this period of major shifts in policy and personnel. The AQEP will develop a sustainability strategy to ensure that its investments have lasting impacts. An Independent Evaluation of the AQEP is planned for 2016 which could help identify factors affecting progress and potential future actions.

Objective 2: Strengthening primary health services

Fiji continues to face ongoing challenges in improving health outcomes. These include maternal and child health and addressing the growing tide of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which now account for 80% of deaths and 40% of all healthcare costs. Australia has been delivering assistance through the Fiji Health Sector Support Program (FHSSP) since July 2011. The Program is aligned to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services' (MOHMS) National Strategic Plan (2011-2015) and supports the Ministry meet its strategic and corporate objectives.

The FHSSP is on track to meet all objectives under its five key focus areas.

1. **Safe motherhood.** In 2014, Australia's support to the MOHMS resulted in a 25% increase in trained midwives. There has been an increase in the quality of maternal hospital services, assessed by compliance with Mother Safe Hospital Initiative standards. The FHSSP recorded an increase from 42 per cent compliance in 2014 to 83 per cent in 2015.

FHSSP contributed to this result by supporting training of health workers in the medical management of post miscarriage services, birth preparedness and complication readiness.

2. **Healthy child.** The FHSSP's support to MOHMS' disease surveillance capacity continued to provide more accurate and timely data on immunisation coverage rates which continued to be high for the three vaccines co-financed by Australia (rotavirus, pneumococcal and HPV at 95% in 2014). The FHSSP supported the MOHMS to achieve within-budget and on time delivery of new vaccines and establishment of surveillance system to monitor and evaluate the impact of the new vaccines into the Fiji immunisation schedule. The MOHMS is increasingly taking ownership of the vaccination program, meaning the FHSSP is contributing to more sustainable health outcomes. The FHSSP has also continued to train doctors and nurses in Integrated Management of Childhood Illness, advanced paediatric life support, the WHO Pocket Book of hospital care for children and to develop neonatal clinical practice guidelines.
3. **Prevention and management of NCDs including cervical cancer.** Prevention and early intervention are key to slowing and eventually reducing the NCD epidemic in Fiji. The FHSSP trained health workers in diabetic foot care, wellness promotion and cervical cancer screening methods in this period. The National Cervical Cancer Screening Policy, the first in the Pacific, was developed and launched in Fiji with support from the FHSSP. Fiji has one of the highest rates of cervical cancer incidence and mortality in the Pacific. The policy, with its commitment to achieving significant screening targets, will help address this health challenge. The FHSSP's co-financing of the cervical cancer vaccine will help prevent this disease in younger women.
4. **Revitalisation of the Community Health Worker network.** Community Health Workers (CHWs) play a vital role in Fiji and continue to enable Fiji's health system to have greater reach into communities including in rural and remote areas. In 2014-15, the FHSSP trained 69% of active CHWs in core competencies and first aid, 37% in safe motherhood, 34% in child health and 24% in wellness (NCDs).
5. **Targeting Health Systems Strengthening.** The public health information system is continuing to run successfully. The data that is collected is informing Ministry planning and decision making, including the MOHMS National Strategic Plan. A major achievement in 2014-15 was helping the Ministry of Health to develop a fully-costed 10-year workforce plan, which was submitted to Fiji's Cabinet and resulted in an additional 150 doctors and 200 nurses being approved in Fiji's 2015 National Budget. The FHSSP continues to support workforce planning including staff training, retention and other human resource management policies.

The FHSSP will conclude in June 2016. It has had a strong focus on sustainability, working with the MOHMS to secure government funding and staff resources to continue most of its initiatives. MOHMS has sought relevant budget allocations in its 2016 budget submission but a challenge will arise if government funding is not forthcoming. Australia is currently designing the next phase of health support and will factor in potential ongoing support for important initiatives that fail to receive government funding.

Objective 3: Building resilience and economic opportunities in disadvantaged communities

The final objective of the Fiji Program is guided by the Community Resilience and Economic Opportunity (CREO) delivery strategy. This objective has maintained a green rating as the CREO has recorded positive progress against all of its deliverables.

1. **Stimulate investment, business innovation and regulatory reform in order to support an increase in the net incomes of the poor.** This is done through the Market Development Facility (MDF) which is focused on reducing poverty by stimulating economic growth. The MDF forms partnerships with the private sector, providing grants and business advisory support to promote investment, innovation and business growth. By December 2014, the MDF had increased the incomes of 1,016 poor men and women (516 women and 500 men) by USD609,000. The MDF leveraged over USD 1.5 million in private sector investment, generating USD 770,000 in new business activity. By June 2015, the MDF had 32 partnerships on the ground in Fiji (29 active and three completed). An additional three were in the immediate pipeline. New partnerships were signed in all three target sectors of Horticulture and Agro-Export, Tourism and Export Processing. The MDF also developed a Women's Economic Empowerment framework to better understand how it creates, captures and reports its impact on women and gender equality.
2. **Financial education to increase the use of financial services by the poor.** Under the CREO, the Pacific Financial Inclusion Project (PFIP) provided technical assistance and funding to the Demand Side Survey, to help Fiji to better understand market information and access to financial services, products and knowledge. Financial inclusion is now embedded in Fiji's curriculum, and teachers across all primary schools in Fiji were trained in delivering it.
3. **Improve the resilience of communities** to respond to natural disasters and economic shocks. The Fiji Community Development Program (FCDP) invests in supporting the community development work of Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and to strengthen their capacity to deliver good, long lasting results. In 2014-15, FCDP reached 51,091 beneficiaries (54% female, 46% male), up from 27,000 last year, through 49 new grants to CSO partners. Through its Community Action Program, 45 communities in poor, rural or remote areas now have formalised Community Development Plans. These plans have led to the development of projects designed by CSOs and the communities and FCDP has funded 27 of these, including 15 Water Sanitation and Hygiene projects, seven income generating activities, four solar lighting projects and one fencing project.

The FCDP helped address the visual, mobility and orientation needs of visually impaired persons by funding members of the Fiji Society for the Blind to attend the 2015 Pacific Education for All Visually Impaired Forum and South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment Biennial Conference. The FCDP also supported the purchase of Visual Aid Equipment Braille machines, for the Fiji Society for the Blind.

A mid-term review of the FCDP confirmed that the program was achieving its objective of mitigating social and economic hardship faced by poor, vulnerable and excluded communities. Based on the findings of the review, the FCDP was extended for its second phase, and is focused on developing a capacity development strategy for CSOs and a government engagement strategy. In line with the findings of the review, the second phase will have a more strategic approach to strengthening civil society capacity, including by helping to foster their relationships with government.

Supporting good governance in Fiji

A major focus for the Australian aid program to Fiji in 2014 was a range of activities to support Fiji's return to democratic governance. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop pledged Australia's support to Fiji's return to democracy and Australia invested in flexible, responsive and strategic mechanisms to assist with:

- a credible electoral process that reflected the will of voters;
- the re-establishment of a functioning Parliament; and
- rebuilding peer to peer Australian and Fijian Government relations to support capacity strengthening.

Australia provided significant technical assistance to Fiji's national elections, including support for the key positions of Deputy Supervisor of Elections and Director of Operations in the Fijian Electoral Office (FEO) and technical assistance for strategic planning and human resource management. Australian Electoral Commission staff provided hands-on assistance with technical elections issues including ballot paper production and postal voting logistics. This high quality technical assistance made a significant contribution to the smooth running of the elections in September 2014 which was acknowledged by the Fijian Government.

Australia co-led the Multinational Observer Group with Indonesia and India, leading the organisation and logistics of over 100 international observers throughout Fiji. The MOG highlighted the credibility of the elections and found them to have broadly represented the will of the Fijian People⁷.

In October 2014, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop announced a new *Institutional Partnerships Program* to support Fiji's public sector. The three pillars of support of the IPP are: inclusive, private sector-led economic growth; improved Public Service performance; and strengthened accountability and inclusive politics. Initial activities have included supporting Fiji Government's request to fund the World Bank to lead the new Public Sector Reform process. Partnerships have already been established between the Australian Electoral Commission and the Fijian Elections Office; Australian federal and state Parliaments and Fiji's Parliament; Fijian and Australian National Archives, and the Fijian and Australian Bureaus of Statistics.

Australia co-funded and worked in partnership with the United Nations Development Program's *Parliamentary Strengthening Program* to provide technical assistance through the Australian Parliament and Victorian Parliament. This relationship has seen capacity assistance support provided by Australian counterparts such as the current and former Clerks of the House; Parliamentary ICT specialists; and Hansard, Public Outreach and Legislative Services staff. In addition, Australian MPs also contributed to Parliamentary capacity development workshops.

Former Australian Speaker Bronwyn Bishop and Fiji's Speaker Dr Jiko Luveni met in both Fiji and Australia as one example of many reciprocal visits between Parliamentarians and Ministers. These were important steps in rebuilding parliamentary links with Fiji and supporting capacity development of its Parliament. Dr Luveni is the first female Speaker of the House in Fiji, and eight women in total were elected to Parliament. DFAT continues to support women in leadership at a Parliamentary level through the *Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships* (PWPP) program. The PWPP Forum was held in Fiji in April 2015, which saw 18 Australian women MPs engaging with women MPs from all over the Pacific.

Supporting gender equality in Fiji

Australia articulated its gender equality objectives for the aid program in Fiji in the *Pacific Women Fiji Country Plan*. This identified four priorities: eliminating violence against women; women's economic empowerment; increasing women in leadership and decision-making; and

⁷ Final Report of the Multinational Observer Group: 2014 Fijian Elections

supporting coalitions for change. In this period Australia made significant progress in supporting initiatives to advance gender equality, which previously was identified as requiring improvement.

We placed a Gender Adviser in Fiji's Ministry of Women to support the implementation of Fiji's National Gender Policy. We supported Medical Services Pacific: a local NGO providing reproductive health services to women and holistic support for survivors of sexual violence. We provided scholarships to 24 unemployed rural women to undertake Certificates in Spa Therapy, which will enable them to take up full-time jobs upon graduation at one of Fiji's many resort spas. Australia also invested in research that measures poverty in Fiji using a gender-sensitive measurement tool.

Performance Benchmarks

Of seven performance benchmarks identified for the 2014-15 financial year, five were achieved (see Annex B) and two partially achieved. The benchmark for improving primary school facilities was 187 classrooms built or upgraded. Only 96 classrooms were upgraded in 2014-15. This was the result of targeted schools prioritising other types of infrastructure assistance over classrooms. In addition to 96 classrooms, the AQEP upgraded 14 libraries, 28 kitchen/dining facilities, 25 teachers' offices, 10 early childhood education rooms, 14 teachers' living quarters, 14 boarding facilities and 97 ablution blocks.

We partially met the benchmark of establishing 40 MDF partnerships to increase incomes for the poor. By June 2015, the MDF had 32 partnerships on the ground in Fiji (29 active and 3 completed). While the benchmarks are developed based on plans and projections, implementation is affected by a range of contextual factors. For the MDF, the development of partnerships depends on the pace of negotiations with private sector actors which in this case has resulted in fewer partnerships than expected. However, the MDF is still on track to achieve its objectives in terms of increased jobs and incomes for the poor. More detail on achievements against each performance benchmark is at Annex B.

Mutual Obligations

In 2014-15, the Australian aid program continued to operate in Fiji in the absence of a formal partnership agreement with the Fiji Government, so there were no agreed mutual obligations. However Australia's aid program was aligned with, and responsive to, Fiji's development priorities.

Fiji has demonstrated its commitment to gender equality through a National Gender Policy and legislation addressing violence against women. Australia supports this commitment through support to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation among others.

Fiji's strong commitment to education was demonstrated through the increase of its education budget and introduction of fee-free education grants to schools. Australia worked closely with the MOE to provide financial management training to enable all schools to manage this new funding arrangement and use the funds effectively. Similarly, in support of the Fiji's strong commitment to improving health services, Australian assistance helped develop a 10-year Workforce Strategy which led to a significant increase in the health workforce.

Annual work plans and budgets for both health and education programs were developed with and approved by the Ministries of Health and Education respectively to ensure full alignment with Fijian Government policies and priorities.

Program Quality and Partner Performance

Overview

The Fiji program is not monitored at a country program level through an overarching program assessment framework. Each initiative in the Fiji program has a monitoring and evaluation framework and is monitored at initiative level. Following the agreement of an Aid Partnership with Fiji, a program assessment framework will be developed to monitor outcomes, mutual obligations and benchmarks against a whole-of-program assessment framework.

Analysis of Aid Quality Checks

Seven Aid Quality Checks (AQC) were produced for the Fiji program for 2014 (see Annex D). Six were assessed as highly relevant in the Fiji development context, with good risk management and relevant safeguards in place. The cross cutting theme of gender rated highly throughout.

The AQC of the Fiji Scholarships program (Australia Awards Scholarships and Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships) reported efficiency and monitoring and evaluation systems as less than adequate. This was due to human resource constraints and the high administration aspects of the scholarships program, leaving little capacity to introduce improved systems. However, a plan is in place to outsource administration work by next year, to enable DFAT to focus on strategic engagement, monitoring and evaluation.

Monitoring and evaluation of the FHSSP has improved dramatically since last year. The FHSSP monitoring and evaluation framework now has clearer linkages between outputs and outcomes and has more realistic and measurable end-of-program outcomes.

One initiative was identified as requiring improvement (Fiji Pacific Women Country Plan). Since that period, the performance of the Fiji Pacific Women program has improved significantly. The Country Plan summary has been finalised, a number of initiatives are underway and a monitoring and evaluation framework is being developed. Implementation arrangements are clearer, and additional technical, logistical and administrative support is available with the establishment of the Pacific Women Support Unit.

Performance of key delivery partners

The majority of bilateral development assistance in Fiji is delivered by managing contractors. The AQEP is delivered by Palladium, the FHSSP by Abt JTA, the PFIP by the UN Capital Development Fund, the FCDP by Coffey International and the MDF by Cardno Emerging Markets (USA) Ltd. The choice of modality for delivering these investments remains relevant given human resource and technical capacity constraints in Fijian Ministries. Future engagement with Fiji may include using partner government systems where fiduciary risks are manageable and development objectives would be more effectively and efficiently achieved.

Partner Performance Assessments (PPAs) are used to assess how well implementing partners are delivering the outputs required in funding arrangements. In 2014-15, PPAs indicated that all delivery partners are performing to an adequate level across all assessment criteria. On a scale of 1 to 6, each contractor received an average of '5' (good) or higher.

Risks

Table 3 Management of Key Risks to Achieving Objectives

Key risks	What actions were taken to manage the risks over the past year?	What further actions will be taken to manage the risks in the coming year?	For emerging/ongoing risks provide a Risk Rating (low, medium, high, very high)
The political environment following Fiji's national elections hinders the development and implementation of the Australian aid program	Australia provided strong support in preparation for, and throughout the national electoral process.	Strong engagement with key officials at all levels of government.	medium
Australian aid is not aligned to Fijian government development priorities	Strong and ongoing engagement with government on health and education. Increased government engagement on civil society support. New Institutional Partnerships program.	An Aid Partnership will be developed and agreed in consultation with the Fiji Government.	medium

Management Responses

Progress addressing last year's management responses was mixed. **Annex A** provides detail. The following management responses are for the forthcoming 12 months.

The 2014-15 period was one of significant contextual shift in Fiji, with a new government and electoral system and a normalised bilateral relationship between Australia and Fiji. The Department published an Aid Investment Plan for Fiji on 30 September 2015. The plan outlines Australia's aid priorities which are increasingly focused on private sector development, good governance and gender equality. Our partnerships in health and education will also continue.

New aid partnership

A major objective for 2015-16 will be to re-establish the development cooperation relationship with the Fijian Government through an agreed Aid Partnership. Australia will work closely with the Government of Fiji to develop an Aid Partnership outlining timeframes, targets and mutual obligations.

Fiji Program Support Facility

With Australia having a number of priority areas in its development cooperation with Fiji there is a risk of spreading the aid program too thin across too many sectors and objectives. To ensure efficiency in implementation, we will develop a program support facility that can support multiple programs, use existing facilities and mechanisms where possible and explore using partner country systems where feasible.

Donor coordination

With significant levels of new donor activity in Fiji following the 2014 elections, Australia will continue to encourage greater development partner coordination by the Fijian Government and ensure that collaboration with other development partners is a key feature of all programs. Australia will play a leading role in ensuring strong donor coordination and cooperation where appropriate.

Ensuring program sustainability

Australia will continue to work closely with the education sector and support the MOE through this period of major shifts in policy and personnel. The AQEP will develop a sustainability strategy to ensure that its investments are designed to have lasting impacts.

Scholarships

Australia will improve the efficiency of the Australia Awards Scholarships in Fiji and the Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships by outsourcing scholarships administration to a contractor and focusing staff resources on strategic aid management.

Disability Inclusion

Australia will improve its engagement with Disabled Peoples Organisations in order to ensure more effective disability inclusion across all programs in Fiji.

Pacific Women Fiji

Australia will ensure that the Pacific Women Fiji program is effective by updating the Fiji Country Plan, designing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework and drawing on the services provided by the Pacific Women Support Unit to enable timely implementation and achievement of results.

Annex A - Progress in Addressing Management Responses

Management responses identified in 2013-14 APPR	Rating	Progress made in 2014-5
Fiji's biggest challenge in the coming period will be to achieve a peaceful and sustainable transition to democracy. Australia will need to provide flexible and responsive assistance including for the electoral process, re-establishment of parliament and other key democratic institutions. Australia will develop a new governance initiative that will provide technical and other assistance in priority areas to help Fiji address some of these challenges.	Achieved	Australia supported Fiji throughout the process leading up to, and executing, successful and democratic elections, including support to the Fijian Elections Office and co-leading the Multinational Observer Group. Australia has made significant gains in re-establishing productive working relationships with Fijian Government officials, supporting a robust and inclusive electoral process and a well-functioning parliament. A new governance program, the <i>Institutional Partnerships Program</i> , began in 2015.
The Fiji program has been tracking well at the activity level and delivering good results in most areas. Many of these outcomes are only partially systemic because the aid program is not positioned to influence and leverage the Government of Fiji's own policies, priorities and resources. The challenge for the Fiji program is to reposition itself in working with a democratically elected government to address Fiji's development challenges in line with new Australian development policies. The way that it will do so will be determined through the development of the Fiji Aid Investment Plan and a proposed Aid Partnership with Fiji.	Achieved	Australia has developed an Aid Investment Plan for Fiji which identifies the need for Australian aid to leverage stronger performance by both public and private sectors in Fiji. It identifies systems strengthening and governance support as major priorities across the health, education, governance and gender programs. Australia has developed the Institutional Partnerships Program to contribute to a stronger public sector and is working more closely with the new government to address Fiji's own policies, priorities and resources.
Adjusting to anticipated changes in the operating environment in Fiji, following its first national elections in eight years on 17 September 2014, presents a major challenge for the program. Australia's aid program will need to be agreed with the new government that forms after that election and begin to operate under different 'rules of engagement'. Existing programs are designed for flexibility, and will be able to adjust to an elected government's new policies and ways of operation. The Health and Education programs are in the second half of implementation, and any new design process will consider a new post-elections environment.	Achieved	A Fiji Aid Investment Plan has been developed to address Fiji's development challenges in line with Australian development policies. This includes exploring options around using government systems and processes where appropriate to support strong, long lasting development outcomes. The Health and Education programs are in their final years of implementation, new design processes are beginning and will complement development priorities identified in Fiji's National Development Plans.
Following the elections, there is expected to be an increase in donor activity in Fiji, so increasing coordination efforts will be critical to minimise duplication and enhance cooperative efforts.	Partly achieved	The Fijian Government has stalled in efforts to facilitate donor coordination at a central level although sector level coordination continues. Australia continues to informally coordinate with most donors, including joint investments with New Zealand and the World Bank.
The program will need to continue its efforts to integrate key cross-cutting issues into all programming: gender, climate change, disaster response and risk reduction and disability inclusiveness.	Partly achieved	Gender equality rated highly on all investment Aid Quality Checks (over 5). Disability inclusiveness is integrated well in in some programs but engagement with DPOs needs improvement. Integration of climate change and DRR across the program has improved, with the health, education and community development programs integrating disaster response assistance and supporting government and community efforts to increase resilience. Coordination with the Pacific Risk Resilience Program has also improved.

Note:

- **Achieved.** Significant progress has been made in addressing the issue
- **Partly achieved.** Some progress has been made in addressing the issue, but the issue has not been resolved
- **Not achieved.** Progress in addressing the issue has been significantly below expectations

Annex B - Progress towards Performance Benchmarks in 2014 -15

Aid objective	2014-15 benchmark	Rating	Progress in 2014-15
Primary School facilities are improved	187 classrooms built or upgraded	Partly achieved	96 classrooms were upgraded in 2014-15. The AQEP supported 31 schools in this period with other infrastructure upgrade priorities including 14 libraries, 28 kitchen/dining facilities, 25 teacher's offices, 10 early childhood education rooms, 14 teachers living quarters, 14 boarding facilities and 97 ablution blocks.
Increased access to safe delivery services by expectant mothers	Improved hospital performance against mother safe and baby-friendly standards	Achieved	Audits of selected hospitals against WHO criteria for mother safe and baby friendly hospitals revealed over 90% compliance with the WHO standards. These hospitals received assistance for training and equipment from the FHSSP to work towards meeting these criteria.
Private sector growth increases incomes for the poor	40 partnerships with private sector in place	Partly achieved	Overall, by June 2015, the MDF had 32 partnerships on the ground in Fiji (29 active and 3 completed). An additional three are in the immediate pipeline.
Fiji holds successful elections in 2014	Australian assistance to the Fijian Elections Office and the Multinational Observer Group contributes to successful elections held in September 2014	Achieved	Australia contributed financial support and technical assistance to the Fiji Elections Office, as well as co-leading the Multinational Observer Group, which found the elections to be credible.
Improved public sector capacity	10 Australia Awards scholarships will be allocated to Government Ministries to build staff capacity in key areas	Achieved	In 2015, 10 Australia Awards Scholarships were offered to Fiji Government Ministry employees, including the Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation. 12 Australia Award Pacific Scholarships were awarded.
Reorient program to focus on Australian government's new development priorities	Aid Investment Plan for Fiji approved	Achieved	Aid Investment Plan for Fiji was developed and published on 30 September 2015.
Empowering women and girls	More than 80% of investments will effectively address gender issues in their implementation	Achieved	100% of Aid Quality Checks for the Fiji Program rated gender inclusion as 4 (adequate) or higher.

Note:

- **Achieved.** Significant progress has been made and the performance benchmark was achieved
- **Partly achieved.** Some progress has been made towards achieving the performance benchmark, but progress was less than anticipated.
- **Not achieved.** Progress towards the performance benchmark has been significantly below expectations

Annex C - Evaluation and Review Pipeline Planning

List of evaluations completed in the reporting period

Name of Investment	AidWorks number	Name of evaluation	Date finalised	Date Evaluation report Uploaded into AidWorks	Date Management response uploaded into AidWorks	Published on website
Fiji Community Development Program	INK130	Mid-term review	14 November 2014	TBC	TBC	Provide actual or estimated date

List of evaluations planned in the next 12 months

Name of Investment	AidWorks number	Type of evaluation	Purpose of evaluation	Expected completion date
Access to Quality Education Program	INJ515	Independent Evaluation	To evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency and to verify program outcomes.	31 December 2015
Market Development Facility	INK629	Mid-term review	To independently review the performance and relevance of the program to date and to inform decisions on continuation.	29 February 2016

Annex D - Aid Quality Check ratings

The previous investment level performance assessment system utilised Quality at Implementation (QAI) reports. Two criteria, Risks and Safeguards and Innovation and Private sector were not assessed in QAI reports and there have been significant changes in AQC reporting this year. Innovation and Private Sector is not a quality standard.

AQC ratings

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	AQC/QAI year	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Monitoring and Evaluation	Sustainability	Gender equality	Risks and Safeguards
Community Development Program (Fiji)	12,965,419 2011-15	2014 AQC	5	5	5	5	4	4	5
		2013 QAI	6	6	5	5	5	5	n/a
Access to Quality Education Program (Fiji)	50,500,000 2010-17	2014 AQC	6	5	5	4	4	4	5
		2013 QAI	6	5	5	4	4	4	n/a
Inclusive Economic Growth	10,311,500 2012-17	2014 AQC	5	5	4	6	5	5	5
		2013 QAI	5	4	5	5	6	4	n/a
Fiji Health Sector Support Program	33,732,191.84 2011-16	2014 AQC	5	5	5	6	6	4	6
		2013 QAI	5	4	4	3	5	4	n/a
Governance Program	4,000,000.00 2012-15	2014 AQC	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
		2013 QAI	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Scholarships	23,815,565.52 2010-21	2014 AQC	5	5	3	3	5	5	5
		2013 QAI	5	4	5	5	5	5	n/a
Pacific Women in Fiji	\$6,270,000.00 2014-17	2014 AQC	4	3	3	3	4	4	4
		2013 QAI	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a