



# Scope of Initiative

## Improving Responsiveness and Accountability in Government

### 2009-10 Budget

As announced in the 2009-10 Budget, the Australian Government will implement initiatives targeted at responding to the global recession and advancing the Millennium Development Goals. The 2009-10 Budget underlines the Government's ongoing commitment to increasing Australia's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015-16. This budget initiative is an important part of that commitment.

The *Improving Responsiveness and Accountability in Government* initiative aims to strengthen community leadership, improve government and public sector effectiveness and citizens' engagement with government, and support anti-corruption efforts in the Asia-Pacific.

The initiative will invest \$138.6 million over four years.

The initiative will strengthen responsiveness and accountability in government through four main components. Activities include:

#### **Developing Leadership Practices**

- Developing leadership practices of current and emerging leaders in the Pacific and East Timor, including increased participation by women as active citizens and elected representatives.
- Funding five annual postgraduate Pacific leadership awards in honour of Greg Urwin, the former Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum.

#### **Improving the Effectiveness of Public Sector Agencies**

- Improving the effectiveness of public sector agencies in the Pacific and East Timor, through training and technical assistance and strengthening statistical services.

#### **Strengthening Engagement between Citizens and Government**

- Supporting community participation and strengthening civil society organisations to hold government to account and, in some cases, as an alternative mechanism for service delivery.
- Improving citizens' access to information, particularly through the media and civic education.

#### **Supporting Anti-Corruption Efforts**

- Supporting anti-corruption efforts in the Asia-Pacific, including reducing corruption in service delivery, strengthening oversight and accountability institutions and through country-level and multilateral partnerships.