

## Mid-Term Review of the Tuvalu Australia Partnership for Quality Education (TAPQE) Program

### Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Management Response

The mid-term review of TAPQE highlighted the strengths and challenges of the investment; and proposed five recommendations to consider for the remainder of the program.

The Management Response was drafted by DFAT as a response to the mid-term review and prepared in consultation with Tetra Tech, as the implementing partner for the investment. TAPQE was designed during COVID-19 to support Tuvalu's education sector, following the completion of the Australian Support to Education in Tuvalu Program. TAPQE's inception phase commenced in January 2023. It was launched in May 2023, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD), and has been implementing activities in Tuvalu in line with its End of Program Outcomes (EOPOs):

**EOPO 1:** *Improved numeracy and literacy outcomes for both girls and boys (Years 1-10), including children with disabilities*

**EOPO 2:** *Improved relevance and quality of secondary school teaching and pathways to employment and further education opportunities for both girls and boys, including learners with disabilities; and*

**EOPO 3:** *Strengthened Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (now MEHRD) personnel and systems so that service delivery is more inclusive, evidence-based and efficient.*

The mid-term review focused on progress to date towards the program's EOPOs. The review was organised around five key questions:

1. To what extent is the TAPQE Program engaged in appropriate interventions and activities within the context of the Tuvaluan education sector? ([Recommendation 3 and Recommendation 5](#))
2. To what extent is the TAPQE Program on track to achieve its three EOPOs? ([Recommendation 1](#))
3. To what extent is the TAPQE Program using resources efficiently to achieve its EOPOs? ([Recommendation 4](#))
4. To what extent are the TAPQE Program's gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) and climate change ambitions, approaches and achievements adequate against program logic and design, and current DFAT policies? ([Recommendation 2](#))
5. To what extent are the monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) arrangements fit for purpose? ([Recommendation 2](#))

DFAT agrees with all recommendations in the mid-term review, noting revisions to TAPQE's programming must be agreed with stakeholders, including the Government of Tuvalu, and endorsed by the Steering Group.

Number	Recommendation	Response (Agree, agree in part, disagree)	Explanation	Action Plan	Timeframe
1	Refine EOPO 2 and 3 for greater definition and achievability	Agree	DFAT and TAPQE agree to refine EOPO 2 and 3 together with MEHRD.	<p>TAPQE to consult with key government stakeholders on revised EOPOs.</p> <p>TAPQE and DFAT to present revised EOPOs to Steering Group for endorsement.</p> <p>TAPQE to adjust documentation to align with amended EOPOs.</p>	<p><u>September 2025</u>: Steering Group Meeting to endorse EOPOs for DFAT's approval.</p> <p><u>By December 2025</u>: update documentation to align with endorsed EOPOs.</p> <p><u>Mid-2026</u>: monitoring report against updated EOPOs and baseline indicators.</p>
2	Review, simplify and deliver an updated TAPQE monitoring, evaluation, research and learning (MERL) Framework	Agree	<p>DFAT and TAPQE agree to update the MERL Framework. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing clear baseline markers</li> <li>• Greater analytical focus on GEDSI</li> <li>• Redesigning the Program Logic and Theory of Change to align with revised EOPOs</li> <li>• Ensuring the MERL Framework is suitable for revised EOPOs.</li> </ul>	<p>TAPQE to present status of baseline data to DFAT.</p> <p>TAPQE to present revised MERL framework to Steering Group Meeting.</p>	<p><u>September 2025</u>: Steering Group Meeting to endorse revised Program logic.</p> <p><u>By December 2025</u>: updated MERL Framework finalized and endorsed by Steering Group.</p> <p><u>Mid-2026</u>: monitoring report using updated MERL framework.</p>

Number	Recommendation	Response (Agree, agree in part, disagree)	Explanation	Action Plan	Timeframe
3	Enhance oversight role and operation of the Steering Group	Agree	DFAT and TAPQE agree the Steering Group should have an enhanced role in the operation of the program. TAPQE will work with MEHRD and other stakeholders to improve strategic engagement with the Steering Group.	TAPQE to consult with key stakeholders on enhancing Steering Group's role.  TAPQE team to present proposal to Steering Group.	<u>September 2025</u> : Steering Group Meeting to review terms of reference, composition and discuss enhanced role.  <u>November 2025</u> : report on enhanced role of Steering Group.
4	Maximise effective and efficient use of TAPQE personnel resources	Agree	With a focus on sustainability and localisation, DFAT will support the TAPQE Program office to review its staffing arrangements to improve effectiveness and efficiency.	TAPQE team to present proposal to Steering Group.	<u>November 2025</u> : Steering Group Meeting to endorse proposal.  <u>By December 2025</u> : update documentation to align with changes to resourcing.  <u>Mid-2026</u> : monitoring report against resourcing changes.
5	Options to update Program design	Agree	DFAT agrees the program design should be updated when the current phase of TAPQE concludes in 2027 to better reflect the context of the education sector in Tuvalu.	DFAT to convene consultations with key stakeholders in Tuvalu and Australia.	Re-design process anticipated to commence in mid-2026.