



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



# AID PROGRAM, PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015-16

Pacific Regional Program

September 2016



## KEY MESSAGES

This Aid Program Performance Report (APPR) evaluates the achievements and development results of Australia's Pacific Regional aid program over the period July 2015 to June 2016.

Key findings and results include:

- *Economic growth*: the aid program leveraged over \$70 million of private sector investment; around 4,500 participants in the Seasonal Worker Programme; a further 1,526 Pacific islanders graduating with vocational qualifications from the Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC), with 95 per cent of them finding employment; and we engaged with 28 villages and 7,400 people in Kiribati, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands to strengthen inshore fisheries management for food security and livelihoods.
- *Effective regional Institutions*: Australia is assisting regional organisations in the first year of implementation of the Framework of Pacific Regionalism and continues to advocate for strong collaboration on regional priorities such as fisheries, climate change and disaster management.
- *Healthy and Resilient Communities*: the aid program provided more than 6,000 medical specialists consultations and approximately 1,593 surgical procedures to people in the Pacific.
- *Empowering women and girls*: we helped draft a new Family Bill for Niue, commenced drafting a Domestic Violence Bill for Nauru and reviewed a draft Bill for the Cook Islands; and marketplaces in Fiji were improved to better promote safety and access for its users, directly benefiting 1,600 market vendors (1,100 women and 500 men).

Consolidation of the Pacific Regional program has progressed well with the number of investments in 2015-16 being reduced to 73 from a July 2013 baseline of 98. This is a 25 per cent reduction. More work will be undertaken to rationalise the regional program to make further funding available for new and emerging priorities of the government, including the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus Agreement, private sector development, women's empowerment and climate change.

The Pacific Regional program has demonstrated sound effectiveness and efficiency in its investments. While Aid Quality Check (AQC) satisfactory ratings for effectiveness reduced from 94 per cent of investments in 2015 to 85 per cent in 2016, this is due to increased robustness of scoring rather than reduced performance of programs. For efficiency, satisfactory ratings reduced from 95 per cent in 2015 to 88 per cent in 2016, again due to improved robustness of scoring. Gender remains the poorest performing criteria, although the level of satisfactory ratings for gender has increased from 71 per cent of investments in 2015 to 73 per cent in 2016 which demonstrates the program is progressing towards the Empowering Women and Girls Strategic Target of 80 per cent.

## CONTEXT

The Pacific faces a range of developmental challenges. In much of the Pacific, economic growth is not keeping pace with population growth. Distance and weak infrastructure makes international trade expensive. Narrow production bases and imported fuel supplies make most Pacific island countries particularly vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations. The private sector is typically small with large informal economies. Greater regional trade and economic integration is needed. The Pacific is well behind on social and economic indicators. Progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals that finished in 2015 was disappointing. Violence, a lack of women in leadership roles and constrained financial opportunities limit women's economic participation. The region is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Australia is the largest aid donor to the Pacific contributing 46 per cent of all official development assistance (ODA) to the region. The Pacific regional program complements the work of bilateral programs with a focus on areas where a regional approach would be more effective. The Aid Investment Plan for the Pacific Regional Program (published in September 2015) establishes the four objectives for the Regional program:

supporting increased economic growth; the development of more efficient regional institutions; healthy and resilient communities; and the empowerment of women and girls in the Pacific.

## EXPENDITURE

Expenditure for the Pacific Regional Program was \$176.9 million in 2015-16. The allocation for 2015-16 is 10 per cent less than the allocation for 2014-15, but is expected to rise in subsequent years.

The Pacific Regional program includes aid activities where benefit can be attributed to particular countries. In 2015-16 this was \$82.5 million. This amount is counted towards the total ODA of these recipient countries.

This report only covers the Pacific Regional program managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Other agencies (including the Australian Federal Police, Attorney-General's Department, and Department of Immigration and Border Protection) also provided \$10.6 million in support of Pacific programs in 2015-16.

**Table 1 Total ODA Expenditure in FY 2015-16**

Objective	A\$ million	% of total ODA
<b><i>Pacific Regional</i></b>		
Objective 1: Economic Growth	98.3	47.4%
<i>Private Sector Initiatives and Aid for Trade</i>	39.0	18.8%
<i>Fisheries</i>	11.2	5.4%
<i>Education</i>	48.1	23.2%
Objective 2: Effective Regional Institutions	41.4	20.0%
<i>Regional Institutions</i>	21.7	10.5%
<i>Governance</i>	19.7	9.5%
Objective 3: Healthy and Resilient Communities	23.8	11.5%
<i>Health and Disability Support</i>	7.9	3.9%
<i>Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction</i>	15.9	7.6%
Objective 4: Empowering Women and Girls	13.4	6.5%
<b>Sub-Total Pacific Regional</b>	<b>176.9</b>	<b>85.4%</b>
Regional and Global	19.7	9.5%
Other Government Departments	10.6	5.1%
<b>Total ODA Expenditure</b>	<b>207.2</b>	<b>100%</b>


## PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVES

Effective progress was maintained this year under the economic growth and empowering women and girls objectives. Progress under the effective regional institutions and healthy and resilient communities objectives were maintained at amber because of the need to improve effectiveness, monitoring and evaluation, sustainability and gender in a number of investments.

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

Objective	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Objective 1: Economic Growth	Green	Green
Objective 2: Effective Regional Institutions	Amber	Amber
Objective 3: Healthy and Resilient Communities	Amber	Amber
Objective 4: Empowering Women and Girls	Green	Green





■ 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: ECONOMIC GROWTH

Economic growth is essential to improve development outcomes in the Pacific, which is why it accounts for around half of our regional investment to the Pacific. Our support aims to improve the capacity for growth, such as helping the private sector, improving education outcomes, improving access to finance, and encouraging trade and economic integration. The rating has remained green for this year because of continuing good AQC results. Performance benchmarks were all significantly exceeded, including leveraging of private sector investment, increasing fishing revenues, and APTC graduates.

### Private Sector Initiatives

In 2015-16, we focused on innovative ways to support economic growth through the private sector. We commenced a pilot with The Difference Incubator to bring impact investment to the region. The Developing Northern Australia White Paper gave DFAT the lead role in a new pilot, the Pacific Worker – Northern Microstates Pilot Program, which will bring up to 250 workers from Kiribati, Nauru and Niue to work in northern Australia for up to three years. We also mobilised new private sector investments in Pacific Islands' productive capacity through our continuing Pacific Partnership with the International Finance Corporation. This was complemented by business environment reform through the Private Sector Development Initiative with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

#### Key results:

- The aid program leveraged \$511 million of private sector investment by December 2015.
- DFAT's innovative pilot with The Difference Incubator brought impact investors to the Pacific for the first time. Working in Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu, The Difference Incubator helped companies become investment ready, and the first investments will be made in late 2016. To date it has had a strong focus on women-led enterprises.
- In 2015-16, we established the Pacific Worker – Northern Microstates Pilot Program, which will provide certificate-qualified workers for the tourism and aged care industries. DFAT worked closely with the Department of Employment and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, along with four major employers, to design the Pilot.
- The Seasonal Worker Programme continued to perform strongly, with around 4,500 visas granted in 2015-16 (an increase of 40 per cent on the previous year). The new Labour Mobility Assistance Program improved partner country's management of workers, providing better information and assistance for participants.
- DFAT worked closely with Westpac to lower the cost of remittances between Australia and Pacific island countries. Westpac is now one of the lowest-cost providers for remittances to and from Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.
- DFAT's Pacific Partnership with the International Finance Corporation accelerated the flow of private investments in the Pacific. In 2015, the Partnership mobilised private investments worth \$53 million, including direct International Finance Corporation investment of \$23 million, and facilitated new lending of \$6.3 million to small and medium enterprises.

- International Finance Corporation provided a loan of US\$10 million (A\$13 million) to the Solomon Island's only tuna processor, SolTuna, to expand and upgrade the processing plant, and help the country retain a greater proportion of the value-add to its own tuna resources. This is expected to create an additional 500 jobs (including 350 women) over the next five years.
- International Finance Corporation provided trade finance support to Bank South Pacific to facilitate the successful import from Europe of three Rubber Tyre Gantries on behalf of Papua New Guinea (PNG) Ports. The gantries have enabled significant efficiency and safety gains at the heavily congested Port Moresby Port.
- Through 2015-16, the business law reform team from DFAT's Private Sector Development Initiative was active in 34 initiatives in 11 Pacific countries. Company law and registry reforms have been successfully implemented in Samoa and Solomon Islands, increasing the annual rate of company formation by an average of 114 per cent and reducing the time it takes to form a company from an average of 24 days to a little over a day. The new companies formed have supported the creation of nearly 2,000 new jobs and over \$100 million in new investment.
- Through the Pacific Financial Inclusion Program, we facilitated the take up of mobile-based insurance products in PNG to over 700,000 policy holders (one-third women). In the Solomon Islands, we facilitated a growth of 24 per cent in microfinance and loans for solar energy (100 per cent women).

#### **Factors affecting progress and future action:**

The increasing number of development partners implementing private sector development reforms and seeking to promote bilateral investment opportunities requires close coordination to preserve the integrity of the reforms, and reduce the time required from government counterparts.

#### **Aid for Trade**

The Pacific Regional Program is on track to have at least 20 per cent of investments supporting Pacific Islanders to trade and invest by 2020, a strategic target for Australia's aid program. Alongside our private sector support, Aid for Trade work supports the growth of exports, investment and regional trade integration in the Pacific.

#### **Key results:**

- DFAT increased its support for the Pacific Islands Trade and Investment network, recognising its success in increasing trade, investment and tourism in the Pacific. Australia will provide \$3.5 million per annum to the network, including support to focus on women's business and the creative arts.
- The Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program (PHAMA) achieved a range of results:
  - established the region's first third party legality assurance system in the Solomon Islands for sawn timber, safeguarding several thousand jobs and \$7 million in exports,
  - undertook cocoa drier trials in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Samoa to improve quality and supply to higher value markets;
  - improved market access into Australia for Fiji ginger, a market worth \$7 million per year for 700 ginger farmers; and
  - undertook a gender review of its operations in Samoa, Tonga and Solomon Islands, and is doing more to help women integrate with commodity value chains.
- A variety of initiatives help Pacific Island Countries to negotiate, consult with their stakeholders and undertake research and analysis to inform their positions in PACER Plus negotiations. For example, in



2015-16, Australia's funding for the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser in Port Vila, Vanuatu, provided advice and support to help Pacific Island Countries participate in PACER Plus negotiations.

## Fisheries

Fisheries remain a key economic driver in the Pacific region. The offshore tuna sector provides over US\$350 (A\$460 million) in direct revenues and makes significant contributions to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment. The inshore sector is critical to food security and livelihoods. The highly migratory nature of offshore tuna stocks makes a regional approach to management essential. Our investments in regional fisheries also reflect the Australian Government's commitment to enhance engagement in the broader Agriculture, Fisheries and Water sectors as part of Australia's global aid policy framework. DFAT works closely with the Departments of Agriculture, Defence and Environment, and with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).


Australia's aid and technical support is critical to the Forum Fisheries Agency's (FFA) effective engagement in the complex management of offshore tuna stocks. Our support to the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC-FAME) helps underpin world-class stock assessments for offshore fisheries. SPC-FAME also takes the lead role in responding to the growing challenges within the inshore sector. In partnership with ACIAR, we are helping communities to manage their own inshore fish resources sustainably.

### Key results:

- Economic returns: Revenues, employment and exports have all increased, despite depressed prices. Pacific Island countries successfully renegotiated terms for the US Tuna Treaty (in July), pending the United States rescinding their notification of withdrawal (lodged January 2016).
- Pacific Fisheries Ministers (including Australia's) endorsed the first report cards against targets for enhanced revenues, employment and food security in the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries endorsed by Leaders in 2015 (the Roadmap); reviewed monitoring, control and surveillance measures; and developed options for increasing economic returns from fisheries as tasked by Leaders.
- SPC –FAME, FFA and Australia jointly launched the Contribution of Fisheries to the Economies of Pacific Island Countries and Territories Report (July 2016) – the third in the series providing significant insights into national and regional fisheries trends.
- Management: The Australian Government Department of Agriculture secured endorsement in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) of Harvest Strategy work plan, which allows countries to agree on targets for long-term sustainability and profitability.
- Food security: In partnership with ACIAR, we worked with 28 villages and 7,400 people in Kiribati, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands to strengthen inshore fisheries management for food security and livelihoods.
- Women and fisheries: Pacific Fisheries Ministers (including Australia's) enthusiastically endorsed FFA's new Gender Framework.

### Factors affecting progress and future actions:

Overfishing by modern fleets threatens the sustainability of fish resources. The development of harvest strategies for all key tuna stocks is an ambitious and lengthy process - the full cooperation of all WCPFC members is required but cannot be guaranteed. Transparency and governance issues and the high cost of doing business impact on the success of local development. Depressed tuna prices and maintaining access to export markets are enduring issues. Population growth, over-exploitation and environmental factors



threaten inshore fisheries, and the sector in turn struggles to secure funding. In 2016-17, Australia will work with our regional partners to help implement the Roadmap, which will improve sustainability and profitability in both the inshore and offshore fisheries sectors.

## Education

Australia's long-term focus is to ensure that all Pacific Islanders have the skills needed to lead a productive life and contribute to economic growth. In 2014-15, the regional education program continued its focus on benchmarking education system institutional capacity, policy development and implementation and supporting quality provision of tertiary education as a major contributor to economic growth.

### Key results:

- The Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC), a region-wide college focussed on technical and vocational education and training (TVET), continues to generate extensive goodwill among Pacific stakeholders, produce high quality graduates (increasing the supply of relevant skills in the Pacific), and help raise the quality of training systems in the Pacific. In 2015-16, 1,526 Pacific Islanders (40 per cent women) graduated from APTC with internationally-recognised qualifications in areas of demand. More than 95 per cent are employed.
- University of the South Pacific (USP): The Pacific Regional program provides core-funding for USP, supporting the provision of quality, internationally-recognised higher education in the Pacific. Australia is USP's largest contributor of development assistance. Australia's funding targets the University's Strategic Plan, and the Mid-Term Review of the Plan in 2015 stated that there has been considerable progress made. In 2015, a total of 4,174 students graduated, with 55 per cent being women. USP increased its international profile through research and accreditation of courses, including the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program, as well as programs in law, accounting and finance, tourism and hospitality, computing and software engineering.
- Work by the Pacific Community (SPC) Education Management Information System (EMIS) facility resulted in the improved coverage of primary schools data in the region, with twelve countries achieving over 95% response rate for annual primary school surveys. The EMIS facility, in partnership with UNESCO Institute of Statistics, has also completed data quality assessments in Samoa, Tonga and Kiribati that will determine the focus of future support.
- The Pacific Benchmarking Education for Results (PaBER) Project (2012–16): The PaBER pilot project assisted three Pacific country education systems (PNG, Samoa and Solomon Islands) undertake evidence-based system-level analysis of institutional capacity, policy development and implementation – benchmarked against international standards. With strong buy-in from governments, key findings are supporting ongoing institutional and policy reforms, which are supporting the development and review of national education plans. PaBER also generated important collective action (coordination, cooperation and collaboration) – key elements of a successful regional approach.

### Factors affecting progress and future actions:

Remaining constraints to capacity of Pacific regional partner agencies and national qualifications authorities continue to limit progress against program objectives. Successful program consolidation during 2014-15 included progress on both collection of vital education data and establishment of strategies for future data collection, aggregation and use. Work with regional institutions will target quality assurance and recognition of qualifications. With employer input, we will tailor training to labour market needs. We will foster graduate access to Australia's employment market.



## OBJECTIVE 2: EFFECTIVE REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

As a member of the major regional organisations, as well as their most significant development partner, Australia plays a key role in enabling them to contribute to regional growth, stability and development. The rating for this objective has remained at amber. While there has been good results and progress with the governance investments there is still more progress to be made with strengthening regional institutions. In particular, we need to work more closely with regional organisations to improve prioritisation, accelerate corporate reforms and address significant financial challenges.

### Regional Institutions

Most of Australia's regional program is delivered through partnerships with five major Pacific regional organisations: the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the University of the South Pacific (USP). The past year has presented major challenges for our regional organisations including the first year's implementation of the Framework of Pacific Regionalism (Framework) and achieving sustainable budget management. Australia is helping PIFS and other regional organisations to develop an effective Framework process and continues to advocate for strong collaboration on other regional priorities such as fisheries, and climate change and disaster management.

### Key results:

- PIFS convened a Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting in July 2015, hosted by the Australian Foreign Minister, the Hon. Julie Bishop MP, in Sydney. The meeting was the first for a number of years and facilitated productive discussions on disaster management and international engagement in the lead up to the Leaders Forum in September 2015. Its success led to Forum Leaders asking that the Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting become an annual event.
- The establishment of a Specialist Subcommittee on Regionalism and the commencement of an open public policy process led to a prioritised regional agenda with five regional priorities approved by Forum Leaders at their meeting in Papua New Guinea. The Forum Leaders Troika also met with civil society representatives (including persons with disabilities) to hear their views on the five priorities. These events were considered a milestone for PIFS, given Leaders' vision for an inclusive and participatory process for regionalism.
- In November 2015, the SPC's governing council endorsed the organisation's new Strategic Plan 2016–20. The plan sets out future directions for the organisation and is informing the prioritisation of its activities to streamline operations and place SPC on a more sustainable footing.
- DFAT's Regional Advisory Services (RAS) continued to provide high quality and targeted assistance to PROs to support organisational reform. PIFS received support to develop the Strategic Results Framework 2016-18 (resulting in more transparent allocation of funds to results) and implement quarterly performance reviews. Ongoing RAS support has also contributed to major improvements in SPC's monitoring and evaluation capability, including the development of an improved Results Report.

### Factors affecting progress and future actions:

Three of Australia's most important regional partners, PIFS, SPC and SPREP are facing significant financial challenges, necessitating forced savings, delayed recruitment, financial reforms and prioritisation of work programs. Australia, along with other members, is helping to address these challenges including by participating in working groups and providing tailored technical assistance. Australia welcomes the opportunity for regional organisations to review and streamline their operations, given the financial and organisational constraints that currently affect delivery of services.





## Governance

Australia also supported regional investments that promote effective governance in individual Pacific Island countries through a range of services, including: technical assistance, capacity building and professional development, social protection and inclusion, media, and leadership skills.

### Key results:

- The Pacific Technical Assistance Mechanism (PACTAM) Phase 2 was launched on 1 July 2015 and provides logistical and performance management support to approximately 50 technical advisers placed across ten Pacific governments. Advisers work in a wide range of sectors including health, financial management, education, gender equality and fisheries. The Tax Reform Implementation Adviser in Nauru has contributed to the successful implementation of tax reforms and record levels of tax revenue during the first phase, 60 per cent higher than originally estimated.
- The Pacific Leadership Program's support to Vanuatu's Women In Shared Decision Making (WIDSM) has contributed to the first five women councillors elected into the Luganville Municipal Council, with one appointed as Deputy Mayor.
- The United Nations Development Fund's (UNDP) Pacific Centre provided technical assistance to the Tongan Parliament on the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) which has led to the establishment of Tonga's first Standing Committee on Anti-Corruption.
- With Australian support to the Pacific Regional Audit Initiative 94% of Pacific Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) have maintained their capability rating as satisfactory in 2015, compared to 57 percent in 2011. This capability rating is assessed against the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) Standards.
- Through the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre's (PFTAC) support, the Government of Fiji (GoF) has improved its financial statements through the first phase of its accounting reform to fully comply with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS-cash basis) ensuring more reliable and transparent financial reporting practices. The Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) is also setting up a project team and governance arrangements to launch the first Compliance Improvement Strategy which is being implemented from January 2016.
- The UNDP in the Pacific has undergone significant operational changes with the merging of the Pacific Centre with the UNDP Multi Country Office to increase its responsiveness and effectiveness including the better alignment of technical expertise with broader UNDP countries activities.

### Factors affecting progress and future actions:

In 2015-16, DFAT continued to rationalise governance activities to support all four objectives in the regional program. Consolidation is intended to reduce transaction costs and the complexity of the regional program to allow better delivery on objectives. With many investments ending in the next two years, DFAT will ensure future activities target emerging priorities and more effective delivery mechanisms.



## OBJECTIVE 3: HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The rating for this objective will remain at amber this year. While there have been improvements in the results for the health sector, including AQC ratings, further work is needed to improve the coherence and consolidate our regional investments to address climate change in the region. Our investments in climate change and resilience haven't worked together as a portfolio. There is an increasing need for a coordinated and harmonised response to climate change in the region.

### Health and disability support

Australia's health and disability support helps women, men and children to lead healthy productive lives. A healthy, resilient population contributes to economic growth and development. In the Pacific, strong health systems are a key component of human development, supporting poverty reduction, productivity and women's empowerment. Complementing Australia's bilateral health investments, the Pacific regional health program focuses on challenges that benefit from a regional approach. This includes strengthening regional health security; improving the quality of workforce training and clinical services; and improving sexual and reproductive health services. The regional program places great importance on disability-inclusive development.

### Key results:

- Strengthening regional health governance and information: Australia's support to the World Health Organisation (WHO) helped to establish core indicators to demonstrate progress towards the Healthy Islands Vision, thereby promoting regional norms and standards.
- Strengthening regional health security: Australia provided core support to The Pacific Community to strengthen regional disease surveillance. This included support for syndromic surveillance for mass-gatherings at the Commonwealth Youth games in Samoa in 2015. Australia's support to WHO contributed to improving the capacity of 13 countries to detect and respond to diseases outbreaks. Australia also supported the development and implementation of the Zika Virus Action Plan for the Pacific to strengthen prevention, preparedness and response capacities, particularly in high risk countries.
- Providing specialised clinical services: Through the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Australia provided 46 specialist clinical service and mentoring visits to 9 countries. Over 6,000 individuals accessed consultations and approximately 1,593 individuals received surgical procedures. 29 Pacific doctors performed the lead surgeon role in 958 surgical procedures. Strengthening Specialised Clinical Services in the Pacific program provided 14 Pacific countries with training, capacity building and coordination of services, inclusive of 18 short courses.
- Health workforce development: Australia provided core support to the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at the Fiji National University which produced 613 graduates in 2015. Australia supported the development of a new post graduate course in pathology.
- Improving sexual and reproductive health: Australia's support to the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) contributed to improved access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls in 8 Pacific Island countries. IPPF delivered 393,904 contraceptive services in 2015. 57% of services in the region were delivered to young people.
- Support to the Pacific Disability Forum: Financial support, training and capacity building and coordination of national Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) at a regional level has resulted in increased DPO capacity. DPOs are now more able to engage with, and influence government and others. Australia's leadership and commitment as the only major bilateral donor for disability in the Pacific, has contributed to raising the profile of disability issues and setting new norms and standards across the region.



## Factors affecting progress and future actions:

In 2016-17, Australia will continue to focus on regional health security to improve detection and response to cross-border health threats. Australia will begin implementation of a new Pacific Regional Clinical Services and Workforce Improvement Program (2016-21), and will support a regional response to non-communicable diseases. The requirement for professional learning, consolidating skills and mentoring is growing in the region as the number of clinicians increases. Looking forward, there will be a stronger focus on continuing professional development for Pacific clinicians and strengthening regional health governance for issues that require regional collaboration. The evaluation of Australian Regional Support for Disability Inclusion in the Pacific, will help guide future investments to support people with disabilities.

## Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction


Climate change and natural disasters erode economic gains and exacerbate development challenges. Australia provides funding and technical support to help promote economic and social resilience to these impacts. Australia also implements measures to protect aid investments that may be vulnerable to future climate risks. For example, the regional program includes a number of activities which help communities manage drought and natural disasters, such as providing water tanks to resist droughts that may be caused by the 2015-16 strong El Niño event in the Pacific.

### Key results:

- The Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) enabled improved decision making in the key area of energy through an innovative climate prediction project undertaken with the Samoa Meteorological Division and the Samoa Electric Power Corporation. Samoa is now able to better manage renewable energy supply through a customised water storage outlook tool that supports the country's hydropower management.
- COSPPac also played a key role in supporting Pacific Island National Meteorological Services provide forecasts and regular updates on the status of the 2015-16 El Niño event – one of the largest events on record. Australia assisted Pacific countries to produce a monthly climate bulletin, hold regular climate monitoring teleconferences and develop a specially-developed Ocean Portal. Australia also assisted a number of national meteorological services to provide stakeholders with advanced warning of periods of suppressed rainfall, warmer than normal ocean temperatures and coral bleaching allowing for measures to reduce the socio-economic impacts associated with these extremes. As a result, partner countries have more detailed climate and ocean information for this event than ever before.
- The Pacific Risk Resilience Program (PRRP) strengthened resilience in four disaster-prone countries, working with communities in Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to identify risks and needs, and formulate and implement sustainable responses. In Fiji, a public-private partnership in Yasawa Islands was developed incorporating a community Food Bank project and agriculture knowledge hub; climate change and disaster risks included in 7 school safety plans in remote and high risk areas in Vanuatu; SMS technology for disaster awareness raising was implemented in partnership with Digicel in Vanuatu and Tonga; and 21 schools in Temotu Province in Solomon Island assisted through school disaster management plans.

## Factors affecting progress and future actions

Australia will use its influence with global, multilateral and other development partners to ensure the region has sustained access to climate finance. For example, through our roles as Co-Chair and a member of the Green Climate Fund Board, Australia has supported information sessions and a regional workshop in 2015 (and another planned for 2016) as well as other advocacy initiatives to raise the awareness of the Fund and help Pacific countries to access funding and develop Green Climate Fund projects.



Australia supported regional organisations, including the SPC and SPREP, to develop a framework for Disaster and Climate Resilient Development. We will support high-level endorsement of the framework in 2016 and will work with PIFS to implement it.

## OBJECTIVE 4: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

Working with governments and communities across the Pacific to achieve gender equality is core business for the Australian Government. Three areas of gender equality: eliminating violence against women; increasing women's economic empowerment and improving leadership for women are all directly relevant to our national interest objective of a stable, secure and prosperous Pacific. Regional program investments in this sector performed highly, accounting for its Green rating. A significant contribution toward this objective is also made by other investments in the regional program, which are all encouraged to include gender-positive aspects. While ratings have improved, greater efforts are needed to ensure that women and girls are empowered through these other investments.

### Key results:

- The Pacific Women's Parliamentary Forums have provided an avenue for Pacific women parliamentarians to discuss gender equality issues - the 2016 Forum brought together over 60 Pacific MPs to discuss how parliaments can respond to women's economic empowerment.
- In 2015, gender stocktakes were completed in Fiji and Nauru; eight countries have now developed work plans detailing a strategy to support their government's enabling environment for mainstreaming gender; five countries have reviewed and / or developed their national gender policy; eight countries have enhanced capacity to produce gender and human rights statistics; and three countries have developed a gender statistics profile.
- Under Markets for Change, implemented by United Nations Women, the physical infrastructure of two marketplaces in Fiji (Labasa and Lautoka) was improved to better promote safety and access for its users, directly benefiting 1,600 market vendors (1,100 women and 500 men) operating out of those markets. Construction began in a third market (Ba). The market serves an estimated 360 vendors (161 women and 199 men).
- Legislation on gender and family violence is a foundation for violence prevention and justice for survivors. The Regional Rights Resource Team has drafted a new Family Bill for Niue, commenced drafting a Domestic Violence Bill for Nauru and reviewed a draft Bill for the Cook Islands.
- Through a partnership with UNICEF, Legal and regulatory frameworks for child protection have been strengthened or are currently being reformed in seven countries. Laws have been strengthened in Kiribati (Juvenile Justice Act), Republic of the Marshall Islands (Disability Act), Samoa (Child Care and Protection Bill) and Solomon Islands (Child and Family Welfare Bill). The Government of Kiribati acceded to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and children involved in armed conflict.
- DFAT launched a Gender Equality Guidance note in September 2015, to support the Pacific Division to implement a comprehensive response to gender inequality across the Pacific through all elements of DFAT's work: foreign and strategic policy; economic diplomacy and trade; and the aid program.

### Factors affecting progress and future actions:

Working towards women's equality and empowerment is a highly complex, challenging and long-term process. Our approach to sustainability is to work for immediate and tangible changes while also building capacity, interest and motivation among women and other stakeholders to support wider and more sustained change to continue to work for women's equality and empowerment beyond the 10 year Pacific



Women Shaping Pacific Development. Pacific Women is a high risk program due to the entrenched and sensitive nature of gender inequality in the Pacific; the limited availability of capable implementation partners; and the potential for backlash against both Pacific women and the initiative itself if it is seen as something imposed from the outside. Pacific Women will have a stronger focus on supporting the needs of women with disabilities going forward.

## PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

The Pacific Regional program achieved the majority of the seven Performance Benchmarks outlined in the Aid Investment Plan. The region significantly exceeded a number of benchmarks including fishing revenue in 2015-16, despite lower fish prices; over 1,500 additional graduates from the APTC with internationally recognised qualifications; \$511 million of private sector investment was leveraged, and around \$90 million in funding was allocated under the Green Climate Fund to the Pacific. Other achieved benchmarks include thirteen out of 22 Pacific Island Countries now have surveillance and response plans for Pandemic Influenza, a good indication of improved capacity to monitor and respond to outbreaks of infectious diseases. There was an increase in the number of market vendors, of which 85 per cent are women, provided with financial and business literacy training. While only partly achieving the benchmark on the ownership of regional organisations by Pacific island country members, there was evidence that members have taken a strong interest in the strategic planning and prioritisation work including greater involvement in subcommittees.

The Aid Investment Plan for the Pacific Regional program only contains benchmarks for 2015-16. The following table provides benchmarks for the years up to 2018-19. A number of benchmarks have been changed because it was considered that the new benchmarks better represent the corresponding objective. In the case of the effective regional institutions objective, the new benchmarks are more realistic. In the case of the health objective, the benchmarks more comprehensively address surveillance and response capacity and align with an international standard. In the case of women and girls empowerment objective, the benchmark aligns closer to leadership and decision-making.

### Performance Benchmarks 2016-17 to 2018-19

		2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
<b>Objective 1: Economic Growth</b>				
<i>Collective action managing regional resources delivers economic benefits to Pacific governments</i>	<i>5% annual increase in revenue flowing to Forum Fisheries Agency Pacific island member governments from offshore tuna fisheries (draft Roadmap aim \$475 million by 2020-21)</i>	<i>US\$400 million (A\$528 million)</i>	<i>US\$420 million (A\$555 million)</i>	<i>US\$440 million (A\$580 million)</i>
<i>Australia Pacific technical College (APTC) provides more Pacific Islanders with internationally recognised qualifications in areas of demonstrated labour market demand.</i>	<i>Additional 1000 Pacific islander graduates per year with internationally recognised qualifications.</i>	<i>1,000 graduates</i>	<i>1,000 graduates</i>	<i>1,000 graduates</i>
<i>Aid program attracts new private sector investment that contributes to Pacific development outcomes.</i>	<i>Private sector investment leveraged.</i>	<i>US\$400 million (A\$528 million)</i>	<i>US\$450 million (A\$594 million)</i>	<i>US\$500 million (A\$660 million)</i>
<b>Objective 2: Effective regional institutions</b>				

Collective ownership of regional organisations by Pacific island country members.

Pacific island country members engaged in decision-making at Pacific Regional Organisation governing body meetings

50%

55%

60%

### Objective 3: Healthy and resilient communities

Pacific island countries are able to meet the challenge of climate change and risk reduction

Pacific governments are able to access and use information on climate change impacts in national planning

SPREP successfully hosts seasonal climate outlook software and resources 14 member countries.

National decision makers utilise climate science findings in national planning in at least 3 countries

National decision makers utilise climate science findings in national planning in at least 5 countries

Collective action managing regional fisheries resources delivers economic benefits to Pacific countries

Pacific governments provide more resources (financial and human resources) to holistic community-based fisheries management approaches.

28 villages (7400 people) benefit from holistic community-based fisheries management approach

Pacific governments report on monitoring and evaluation indicators under the A New Song for Coastal Fisheries

ACIAR provides evidence of holistic community-based fisheries management approach in at least 3 countries.

Pacific island government national surveillance systems effectively monitor outbreaks of infectious diseases

Number of Pacific island countries meeting all seven International Health Regulation core capacities.\* (Currently 9 out of 14). Our aim is to maintain or increase this number each year.

9+

9+

9+

### Objective 4: Empowering women and girls

Improved participation in decision making for women in the Pacific.

Number of women supported to take on leadership roles at the community, provincial and national level.

5,000

5,500

6,000

\*See [www.who.int/topics/international\\_health\\_regulations/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/international_health_regulations/en/)

## MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS

Under the Pacific Regional program, Australia has a set of mutual obligations through its multi-year partnerships with major Pacific regional organisations. These are aimed at strengthening their governance, corporate administration and performance assessment capability to improve their effectiveness, efficiency and ability to report on outcomes. A key part of this is improving the accountability of regional organisations to all members and giving particular focus to the needs of small island states. In 2015-16, Australia has continued to consolidate and strengthen these partnerships. We have provided consistent and reliable core funding. We have actively contributed to strategic planning and prioritisation including the development of new multi-year strategic plans for PIFS, SPC and SPREP. The RAS provided flexible, specialist support to regional organisations to progress key issues including the development of results frameworks, monitoring and evaluation and review of regional meetings. The first evaluation of the SPC – Australia Partnership Agreement has been published. We will take the opportunity with current Funding Agreements ending in the next year for the PIFS, SPC, USP, FFA, and SPREP, to further leverage improved performance and development results in a consistent manner.



## PROGRAM QUALITY AND PARTNER PERFORMANCE

### Overview

To ensure our investments are working effectively and achieving value for money, ten evaluations were undertaken in 2015-6 (see Annex C). These were undertaken in the agriculture, fisheries, climate, health, and disability sectors. A further eight evaluations are scheduled for 2016-17.

Substantial progress has been made with consolidation to maximise efficiency of the Pacific Regional program. Future proliferation is being minimised by ongoing review of the program to make space for government priorities particularly in trade, climate change, private sector development, and gender.

### Analysis of Aid Quality Checks (AQC's)

Improvement in the quality of the Pacific Regional program is demonstrated through our comparison to the Strategic Targets set out in the Government's aid policy. Regarding gender, the Pacific Regional program has improved its ability to effectively address gender issues in its investments. Between 2015 and 2016, the proportion of satisfactory ratings for gender improved from 71 per cent to 73 per cent, which demonstrates the program is progressing well towards the 'empowering women and girls' strategic target of 80 per cent.

Value for money is also being achieved in the Pacific Regional program. The Pacific Regional program has successfully exceeded the strategic target for value for money demonstrating effectiveness and efficiency in more than 85 per cent of investments.

### Performance of key delivery partners

The Pacific Regional program conducted a total of 26 Partner Performance Assessments (PPAs) in 2016, which assessed the performance of partners in more than \$650 million in contracts. Overwhelmingly, it was demonstrated the performance of partners in the Pacific Regional program was strong. In particular, our partners were assessed as being collaborative, responsive and innovative with strong policy alignment and approach to risk management. In all five criteria, each receiving a rating between 1 and 6, the 26 PPA's scores averaged more than 4.4 in every criterion. No partner received a score of less than three (3) in any criterion. 14 of the 26 PPAs conducted were of multilateral organisations, such as UNICEF (three), UNDP (two), UN Women (two), SPC (two) and the ADB (two), and five were commercial suppliers. The assessments of these partners' performance were consistent with the average of the Pacific Regional Program. There have been some issues with the quality and timeliness of partner deliverables, responsiveness to DFAT requests and efficiency of recruitment. In one case this resulted in a performance payment not being provided. These issues will be followed up with delivery partners this coming year.

## Risks

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)
Program funding and objectives are undermined by fraud.	Regularly monitored our systems and processes to reduce opportunities for corruption across the Regional Program.	Use our comprehensive fraud control and risk management frameworks to help prevent, detect and control fraud. Will seek to engage with trusted and effective implementing partners: major international organisations (e.g. ADB and UN), regional institutions, & high-performing NGOs.	Medium. We will take action to ensure that fraud will have a minimal impact by identifying it early.
Pacific Regional Organisations and multilateral organisations do not implement reforms and improve effectiveness	Worked actively through the new partnership agreements with the USP, PIFS, FFA, and SPC to ensure more strategic management and effectiveness.	Pacific Regional Program will continue to work with Pacific Regional Organisations and multilaterals to support their reform agendas and improve their accountability and effectiveness.	High. Australia alone cannot direct outcomes in the regional organisations and progress so far has been slow.
Regional and bilateral programs exhibit poor coordination and cooperation.	Worked to ensure bilateral Aid Investment Plans reflected regional contributions to development relationships.	Pacific Regional Program will continue to work with bilateral programs to ensure coordination and cooperation.	Medium. It remains difficult to coordinate across the full range of programs.
Over-programming and proliferation of initiatives	Reduced the number of investments by 25 per cent.	Further work on consolidation will be undertaken.	Low. The number of investments has been falling. However more funding is needed in the regional program for emerging government priorities.


## MANAGEMENT RESPONSES

Of the management responses identified in the 2014-15 APPR one was achieved and the rest were partly achieved. We achieved the response relating to reducing the number of investments in the regional program by 20 per cent. While only partly achieving the final aid for trade target we are on track to achieve it by the due date in 2020. We completed ten out of thirteen evaluations scheduled for 2015-16. In the other responses relating to the implementation of strategic plans by regional organisations and gender we made sound progress.

In 2016-17 we will continue with our work to consolidate the number of activities in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the Pacific regional program. This will involve reducing investments as some come to completion as well as transitioning our support for some activities to new management arrangements and funding support. This is required to make further funding available for new and emerging priorities of the government, including PACER Plus Agreement, private sector development, women's empowerment, and climate change.

We will ensure that our future investments in the regional program are consistent with the *Framework for Pacific Regionalism*. To this end the Pacific regional program will focus on the 'tests' for regionalism in the Framework that activities will meet at least one of the following criteria: (i) establish a shared norm or standard; (ii) establish a common position on an issue; (iii) deliver a public or quasi-public good which is regional (or sub-regional) in its scope; (iv) realise economies of scale; (v) overcome national capacity constraints; (vi) complement national governments where they lack capacity to provide national public goods like security or the rule of law; or (vii) facilitate economic or political integration.





There is currently no Performance Assessment Framework for the Pacific Regional program. We will consider developing one in 2016-17.

In 2016-17 we will continue to make progress with the government's strategic targets, in particular expenditure on aid for trade and empowering women and girls. We will complete an audit of gender equality in regional programs and make recommendations on actions for program improvement in order to meet the 80 per cent strategic target. We will also assess the robustness of 2016 AQC scores through a spot check, collaborating where possible with Office of Development Effectiveness' Annual Spot Check of AQCs.

Finally we will deliver evaluations scheduled for 2016-17 in line with guidance from the Office of Development Effectiveness. In addition, we will ensure management responses from the previous year's evaluations are implemented.

# ANNEX A- PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING MANAGEMENT RESPONSES

Describe progress made against management responses in 2014-15 report

Management responses identified in 2014-15 APPR	Rating	Progress made in 2015-16
Work with the new partnership agreements with the Pacific Islands Forum, the Pacific Community, University of the South Pacific, Forum Fisheries Agency, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme to ensure strategic plans are implemented and organisations continue to take a long-term, more strategic view of their work.	Partly achieved	DFAT has continued to consolidate and strengthen its Partnership Agreements with the Pacific Islands Forum, the Pacific Community (SPC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP). The first Evaluation of the SPC – Australia Partnership Agreement has been published. In the past year we have actively contributed to strategic planning and prioritisation including the development of new multi-year strategic plans for PIFS, SPC and SPREP. The Regional Advisory Services (RAS) provided flexible, specialist support to regional organisations to progress key issues including the development of results frameworks, monitoring and evaluation and review of regional meetings.
The Pacific regional program remains on track to meet the government's strategic target for aid for trade investment.	Partly achieved	Pacific Regional program aid for trade in 2015-16 was 15 per cent of total expenditure (\$26.5 million of a total of \$176.9 million).
The Pacific regional program remains on track to meet the government's strategic target for gender equality. Ensure gender equality and disability inclusiveness is integrated throughout the regional program.	Partly achieved	The Pacific Division launched a Gender Equality Guidance Note in September 2015 which provided direction to staff on how to implement a comprehensive response to gender inequality across the Pacific through all elements of DFAT's work: foreign and strategic policy; economic diplomacy and trade; and aid. This was coordinated by the Pacific Regional program. An evaluation of disability funding to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Pacific Disability Forum was undertaken and the recommendations, and DFAT's response to these, will guide future regional investments in disability inclusiveness.
The Pacific regional program remains on track to meet the government's strategic target to reduce the number of investments by 20 per cent.	Achieved	During 2015-16 the Pacific regional programme reduced investments to 73 from a July 2013 benchmark of 98. This is a 25 per cent reduction.
Undertake all evaluations identified in the 2014-15 APPR for 2015-16.	Partly achieved	All evaluations were undertaken except for three (out of 13).

## 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 2015-16

Aid objective	2015-16 benchmark	Rating	Progress in 2015-16
<b>Objective 1: Economic Growth</b>		Achieved	.
Collective action managing regional resources delivers economic benefits to Pacific governments	5% annual increase (US\$264 million) in revenue flowing to Forum Fisheries Agency Pacific island member governments from offshore tuna fisheries (from 2013-14 baseline).	Achieved	The region significantly exceeded this performance benchmark in 2015-16, despite lower fish prices. Total Government revenues for the year are over US\$350 million (A\$460 million) largely from foreign flagged purse seine vessels operating under the Vessel day Scheme. There are clear challenges to increasing returns from the longline fishery. After peaking with very high prices in 2012 however, GDP has decreased due to reductions in the value of the purse seine catch. This trend needs to be reversed.
Australia Pacific technical College (APTC) provides more Pacific Islanders with internationally recognised qualifications in areas of demonstrated labour market demand.	Additional 1000 Pacific islander graduates with internationally recognised qualifications.	Achieved	We significantly exceeded this benchmark with a total of 1526 students having graduated from APTC programs between July 2015 and June 2016.
Aid program attracts new private sector investment that contributes to Pacific development outcomes.	US\$350 million (A\$462 million) of private sector investment leveraged.	Achieved	US\$387 million (A\$511 million) of private sector investment had been leveraged by December 2015.
<b>Objective2: Effective regional institutions</b>			
Collective ownership of regional organisations by Pacific island country members.	70 per cent of Pacific island country members engaged in decision-making at Pacific Regional Organisation governing body meetings.	Partly achieved	Pacific Community (SPC) conducted governance training prior to Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) as part of implementing the recommendations of its governance review. While driven by financial concerns, members have taken a strong interest on the strategic planning and prioritisation work including greater involvement in subcommittees including: PIFS FOC Subcommittee on Prioritisation (8 of 16 members); SPREP (10 of 22 members); and SPC CRGA Strategic Plan Subcommittee (12 of 26 members). Another positive indicator was the participation of Foreign Ministers and Leaders responsible for foreign policy at the Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting in Sydney in July 2015.

Aid objective	2015-16 benchmark	Rating	Progress in 2015-16
<b>Objective 3: Health and resilient communities</b>			
<i>Pacific island countries effectively manage global sources of climate finance</i>	<i>US\$10 million (A\$13million) in increased Green Climate Fund finances allocated to Pacific region</i>	Achieved	<i>The Green Climate Fund approved for the Pacific: US\$1.3 million(A\$1.7 million) in readiness funding US\$67 million(\$A88 million) for approved projects</i>
<i>Pacific island government national surveillance systems effectively monitor outbreaks of infectious diseases</i>	<i>10 per cent annual increase in number of Pacific island governments implementing specific surveillance and response plans for outbreaks of infectious disease.</i>	Achieved	<i>Thirteen out of 22 Pacific Island Countries now have surveillance and response plans for Pandemic Influenza, a good indication of improved capacity to monitor and respond to outbreaks of infectious diseases.</i>
<b>Objective 4: Empowering women and girls</b>			
<i>Improved economic opportunities for women in the Pacific.</i>	<i>2000 market vendors, of which 85 per cent are women, are provided with financial and business literacy training.</i>	Partly achieved	<i>A total of 841 people trained in improved record keeping and business management. Of these 742 (88 per cent) were women and 99 (12 per cent) were men. This is an increase from the previous year's total of 756 people, of which 544 (72 per cent) were women and 212 (28 per cent) were men.</i>

**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 PLANNING

### List of evaluations completed in the reporting period

Investment number and name (if applicable)	Name of evaluation	Date completed	Date Evaluation report Uploaded into AidWorks	Date Management response uploaded into AidWorks	Published on website
INI 851 Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program	Independent Evaluation	July 2016	TBD	TBD	TBD
INJ488 Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific	Mid-term Review	March 2015	July 2015	July 2015	December 2015
INJ201 Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR)	Independent Progress Review	November 2015	November 2015	NA – implemented by ACIAR	November 2015
INJ589 Pacific Community Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (SPC FAME)	Final Independent Review	January 2016	July 2016	NA – part of core funding	July 2016
INK933 Strengthening Specialised Clinical Services in the Pacific (SSCSIP)	Independent Evaluation	September 2015	December 2015	July 2016	July 2016
INK933 Tertiary Health Services Pacific Islands Project (PIP), Royal Australasian College of Surgeons	Independent Evaluation	September 2015	December 2015	July 2016	July 2016
INK933 Fiji National University, College of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences (former Fiji School of Medicine)	Independent Completion Review	November 2015	July 2016	NA	No – Fiji National University has not approved publication
INK794 Pacific Regional Blindness Prevention Program	Partner-led evaluation	November 2015	December 2015	NA	No – New Zealand evaluation
ING982 Pacific Community (SPC) Regional Rights Resource Team(RRRT)	Independent Evaluation	February 2016		To be completed December 2016	
INI486 Pacific Disability Forum (PDF)	Independent Evaluation	March 2016		To be completed October 2016	

## List of program prioritised evaluations planned for the next 12 months

Evaluation title	Investment number and name (if applicable)	Date – planned commencement (month/year)	Date – planned completion (month/year)	Purpose of evaluation	Evaluation type
Independent review	INI898 Pacific Financial Inclusion Program	September 2016	December 2016	Progress, implementation and inform future.	Partner led
Mid-Term Review	INJ964 Pacific Risk Resilience Program	September 2016	December 2016	Assess progress and shape future support for the program	DFAT led
Independent Review	INJ201 Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)Core Funding Support	March 2017	May 2017	Assess the performance of the Forum Fisheries Agency for all Members.	Partner led
Evaluation	INK933 Partnerships for Health and Rights: Working for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (International Planned Parenthood Federation)	2016	2016	Verify program outcomes	Partner-led
Independent Progress Review	INK496 Progressing Gender Equality in Pacific Island Countries and Territories	October 2016	December 2016	Assessment of progress and effectiveness of gender mainstreaming through the Pacific Community (SPC).	DFAT led
Independent Progress Review	INK496 Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships	October 2016	December 2016	Assessment of the Partnership at the three year point in order to review progress and effectiveness.	DFAT led
Independent Mid-Term Review	INL322 The Pacific Community (SPC) – Government of Australia Partnership for Pacific Regionalism	February 2016	August 2016	Assess the performance of the Partnership against its stated objectives and assess the effectiveness of the partnership modality in supporting the Pacific regional architecture	DFAT led
Independent Progress Review	INK496 Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development	August 2016	March 2017	Progress against three year objectives.	DFAT led

## ANNEX D- RATINGS

AQC investment performance over the previous 12 months and where available last year's AQC ratings are included.

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	year on year	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Monitoring and Evaluation	Sustainability	Gender equality	Risks and Safeguards
State Society and Governance Melanesia	\$32m 1995-2017	2016 AQC	4	4	3	3	4	4	4
		2015 AQC	5	5	4	3	4	5	4
UNDP Pacific Sub Regional Centre	\$30m 2006-18	2016 AQC	5	4	4	3	4	4	3
		2015 AQC	5	5	5	4	5	4	5
Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)	\$12m 2006-17	2016 AQC	5	4	4	3	4	5	3
		2015 AQC	5	5	5	4	4	6	5
PACER Plus Support	\$12m 2007-18	2016 AQC	6	4	4	4	4	3	4
		2015 AQC	5	4	5	4	4	3	4
Pacific Regional Agricultural Market Access	\$41m 2009-17	2016 AQC	6	5	5	4	4	4	5
		2015 AQC	5	5	5	4	4	4	5
UNDP Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme	\$19m 2009-17	2016 AQC	6	5	5	5	5	4	4
		2015 AQC	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

University of the South Pacific Partnership	\$81m 2010-19	2016 AQC	5	4	4	4	5	5	4
		2015 AQC	5	4	4	4	4	4	4
Fisheries Development Assistance in the Pacific	\$51m 2010-18	2016 AQC	6	5	5	5	4	4	5
		2015 AQC	6	5	5	4	4	4	5
Scholarships French Collectivities ADS	\$8m 2010-18	2016 AQC	5	3	4	3	4	4	4
		2015 AQC	5	4	4	4	5	4	5
Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific	\$34m 2010-17	2016 AQC	5	4	4	5	4	2	5
		2015 AQC	5	5	5	5	4	1	5
Pacific Fisheries and Food Security - SPC	\$10m 2010-15	2016 AQC	6	5	5	5	4	4	5
		2015 AQC	6	5	5	4	4	4	5
SPREP Partnership Agreement 2011-2015	\$18m 2011-17	2016 AQC	5	3	4	4	4	4	4
		2015 AQC	5	5	5	5	4	3	5
Tertiary Health Pacific Islands Project	\$9m 2011-16	2016 AQC	5	5	5	5	4	4	5
		2015 AQC	5	4	5	4	4	3	4
Australia-Pacific Technical College Stage 2	\$242m 2011-18	2016 AQC	6	5	5	5	4	5	5
		2015 AQC	6	5	5	4	4	5	5
Pacific Risk Resilience Program	\$20m	2016 AQC	5	5	5	5	5	5	5



	2011-18	2015 AQC	5	5	4	4	4	4	5
Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development	\$196m	2016 AQC	5	5	4	4	5	6	4
	2012-22	2015 AQC	6	5	4	4	5	6	4
Pacific Specialised Clinical Services	\$4m	2016 AQC	4	4	4	4	4	3	4
	2011-16	2015 AQC	5	4	5	5	4	3	4
Pacific Public Administration Governance Initiative	\$9m	2016 AQC	5	4	3	4	4	2	3
	2014-17	2015 AQC	5	3	4	3	3	2	4
International Finance Corporation Pacific E.Timor	\$24m	2016 AQC	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	2012-18	2015 AQC	6	5	5	5	5	6	5
Pacific Regional Health Strategy	\$37m 2013-21	2016 AQC	5	4	3	4	4	4	4
Private Sector Development Initiative Phase 3	\$24m	2016 AQC	5	5	5	5	5	4	5
	2013-19	2015 AQC	6	5	5	5	5	4	5
Tertiary education and support activities	\$4m 2015-17	2016 AQC	4	3	4	4	4	3	3
World Bank Pacific Facility 4	\$30m	2016 AQC	6	5	5	5	5	4	5
	2013-18	2015 AQC	6	5	5	5	4	4	5
Pacific Business Fund	\$15m	2016 AQC	5	5	5	5	4	5	5

	2013-20	2015 AQC							
Aust Awards Pacific Scholarships - 2014 Intake	\$12m	2016 AQC	5	4	4	3	5	4	5
	2013-21	2015 AQC	5	5	3	3	5	5	5
Pacific Leadership Program Phase 3	\$16m	2016 AQC	5	4	4	3	4	4	4
	2014-17	2015 AQC	5	5	5	3	5	5	5
SPC - GOA Partnership for Pacific Regionalism	\$51m	2016 AQC	6	5	4	4	5	3	3
	2014-17	2015 AQC	6	5	4	3	5	3	3
GoA-PIFS Partnership 2014-2019	\$28m	2016 AQC	5	3	4	3	3	3	4
	2014-18	2015 AQC	5	3	4	2	4	4	3
Pacific Regional Organisations Facility	\$5m	2016 AQC	5	4	3	3	4	2	4
UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Program 2014-2017	\$7m	2016 AQC	6	5	5	4	5	4	6
	2014-18	2015 AQC	6	4	5	5	5	4	6
Labour Mobility in the Pacific	\$7m	2016 AQC	5	4	4	4	5	4	5
	2015-18								

## FAQC RATINGS

Final AQC's assess performance over the lifetime of the investment (ratings are not compared to previous years).

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	Overall rating	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Monitoring and Evaluation	Sustainability	Gender equality	Risks and Safeguards
Pacific Public Sector Linkages Program	\$26m 2009-16	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4
APPS in PNG 2015 Intake	22m 2015-19	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	5
Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships PNG	\$26m 2014-21	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	5
In-PNG Scholarships From 2013	\$43m 2012-20	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	5
Pacific Regional Audit Initiative	\$4m 2008-15	5	5	4	4	3	4	2	4
Pacific Benchmarking Education Quality for Results	\$6m 2012-17	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	5
UNICEF Multi-Country Program 2013-2015	\$12m 2011-15	4	5	3	3	3	3	4	5
Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS) 2	\$12m 2011-17	4	5	3	4	3	4	4	5

Definitions of rating scale:

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)

6 = Very good; satisfies criteria in all areas. 5 = Good; satisfies criteria in almost all areas.

4 = Adequate; on balance, satisfies criteria; does not fail in any major area.

Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)

3 = Less than adequate; on balance does not satisfy criteria and/or fails in at least one major area.

2 = Poor; does not satisfy criteria in major areas. 1 = Very poor; does not satisfy criteria in many major area.