

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE FIJI ISLANDS
RELATING TO THE AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM AND THE AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

1 GENERAL

THIS MEMORANDUM expresses the understandings of the Government of Australia (GOA) and the Government of the Republic of the Fiji Islands (GOF) concerning the responsibilities and contributions respectively of the two Governments in regard to the Australian Development Scholarship Program and the Australian Regional Development Scholarship Program (hereafter referred to as the Program). The Program is intended to assist in human resource development by providing scholarships to both the public and private sectors in Fiji for study in Australia and in the Pacific region as further described and detailed in Annex 1 to this Memorandum (Program Activity).

This Memorandum is concluded pursuant to and is subject to the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of the Fiji Islands on Development Cooperation, signed at Suva on 7 September 1995, unless otherwise provided in this Memorandum.

2 EXECUTING AUTHORITIES

The Executing Authorities for the Program will be:

For the GOF: PSC - the Public Service Commission of the Government of the Republic of the Fiji Islands

For the GOA: AusAID - the Australian Agency for International Development of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

AusAID may engage suitably qualified contractors to undertake any part of its commitments under this Memorandum.

3 MANAGEMENT

Responsibility for oversight of the Program will be vested in a Joint Selection Committee ("the Committee"), whose membership will be comprised of GOF and GOA appointees. The GOF will appoint the chairperson of the Committee and may also nominate as Committee members representatives of the PSC and the South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA).

The GOA will appoint a representative of AusAID as a Committee member. The Committee will meet not less than twice a year. Its functions will include:

- 3.1 monitoring the Program's implementation through regular progress reports from AusAID Managing Contractors and the Post; and
- 3.2 advising the two Governments on Program progress, and recommending to the Governments changes in the Program components, budget and future direction.

4 CONTRIBUTIONS

The contributions of the GOA and the GOF are detailed in Annexes 3 and 4 of this Memorandum. It is proposed that this Program will be up to a maximum funding level of about A\$3 to A\$3.5 million. The overall policy of the scholarship programs will be discussed regularly at High Level Consultations on the bilateral development cooperation program.

5 FACILITATION

The GOA will provide personnel and facilities necessary to enable the Program to operate in an efficient and economical way through an Open Selection Process and without limiting the generality of this paragraph, such contribution will include:

- 5.1 access to GOF facilities, documentation and personnel;
- 5.2 all necessary approvals and authorities for carrying out Program Activities.

6 EVALUATION

An evaluation of progress of the Program may be made at times arranged between, and mutually convenient to, both Governments. Such an evaluation would be carried out by a joint investigation team appointed by the two Governments and independent of staff involved in the Program.

7 AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Memorandum may be made at any time by an arrangement in writing between the two Governments.

8 DURATION

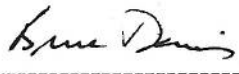
This Memorandum will take effect from the date of its signature and the Program will be deemed to have commenced from that date. The Australian contribution to the Program and all commitments given herein will cease on such a date as may subsequently be arranged between the two Governments.


ANNEXURES to this Memorandum form an integral part of it.

SIGNED at Suva, in duplicate, this *28th* day of June 2002.

For the Government of
Australia

For the Government of the Republic
of the Fiji Islands





ANNEX 1

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Project Profile

The Australian Development Scholarship (ADS) and the Australian Regional Development Scholarship (ARDS) programs are training schemes provided by Australia to address Fiji's human resource development needs in the key priority sectors of governance, health and education.

Project Objectives

Australian assistance to education and training in Fiji has two main objectives:

1. to assist in the development of the education sector in Fiji and support to the education systems; and
2. the direct provision of skills and knowledge to individuals from priority sectors consented to by the GOF and identified in the Country Strategy Paper.

Project Description

The level of funding for the ADS and ARDS programs will be jointly determined by both governments annually, as will the levels and fields of study. The proposed package of awards will be linked to Human Resource Development plans and strategies developed by the GOF and to the Country Strategy Paper.

Scholarships will be administered under the Open Category selection process and jointly determined by GOA and GOF. In the first year of operation there will be up to 10 full time ADS awards up to Masters level, up to 50 full time ARDS awards and up to 70 Distance Education or Extension Study mode awards, all equally split between male and female candidates.

After the first year, awards will be determined on an annual basis in close consultation with the Public Service Commission, up to a maximum funding level of about A\$3 to A\$3.5 million annually. The awards will, however, continue to be predominantly for in region training and in Australia awards will be offered where training does not exist in the region.

ANNEX 2

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Government of Australia

- Advertising and short listing of all applicants
- All administrative tasks in relation to processing applications
- Make formal award offers and arranging initial travel
- Arrange medical examinations for successful applicants
- Advise institutions of final acceptance and travel details where appropriate
- Booking and payment of initial travel
- Pre-departure briefing for students

Government of the Republic of the Fiji Islands

- Provide advice and consultation with regard to advertising and shortlisting of awards
- Arrange meeting with JSC to prioritise nominations and mutually determine a priority and reserve list of nominations
- Payment of salaries for successful in-service applicants for duration of the award, where appropriate
- Bonding of students

ANNEX 3

CONTRIBUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA

The contribution of the Government of Australia in relation to this Program will include:

- Costs in relation to advertising and shortlisting of students
- Each awardee will be entitled to:
 1. Actual cost of medical examination prior to taking up award
 2. Economy class airfare at beginning and end of award where appropriate
 3. Establishment allowance
 4. Stipend to be paid fortnightly from the day of arrival in the country of study for full time awards
 5. Academic fees for the duration of award
 6. Annual Institutional management fees
 7. Any other mutually determined essential costs

ANNEX 4

CONTRIBUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE FIJI ISLANDS

The contribution of the GOF in relation to this Program will include:

1. Coordinating meetings for Joint Selection Committee
2. All costs in relation to convening Joint Selection Committee meetings
3. Release of in-service public sector personnel from their position for duration of award
4. Maintain salary for in-service awardees for duration of award, where appropriate
5. Re-employment of in-service awardees on completion of their studies.