



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AID SUB-COMMITTEE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE

Inquiry into strategic effectiveness and outcomes of Australia's aid program

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Parliamentary inquiry into Australian aid strategic effectiveness

A new Parliamentary inquiry will examine the strategic effectiveness and outcomes of Australia's aid program in the Indo-Pacific region, and its role in supporting our regional interests.

The inquiry will be conducted by the Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee of Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, chaired by Mr Chris Crewther MP.

Mr Crewther said the inquiry offers a timely opportunity to review the [changes to Australia's aid framework introduced in 2014](#), and to ensure Australia's aid program is improving outcomes for our aid partners and supporting Australia's regional interests. Under the new framework, 90% of Australia's \$3.9 billion aid budget is directed to our partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

"The inquiry will focus on examining the effectiveness of changes to refocus Australia's aid program, particularly the role of the private sector, trade development and innovation, and our increasing emphasis on outcomes for women and girls," Mr Crewther said.

"It will also allow us to ensure that our aid dollars are helping our aid partners build strong, prosperous and sustainable local economies, particularly by encouraging local procurement that does not distort local economies."

The inquiry will examine the broad range of programs funded by the aid budget, including the innovationXchange and Aid for Trade program, as well as the role of business partnerships, social enterprise and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) in delivering aid outcomes.

The Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee invites submissions from anyone with an interest in the issues raised by the [terms of reference](#), which are available on the committee's website.

Submissions addressing the terms of reference should be lodged by **15 June 2018**. Further details about the inquiry, including how to contribute, can also be obtained from the [Committee's website](#), or by contacting the Committee Secretariat.

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For background:

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