



## **Submission No 41**

### **Inquiry into Human Rights and Good Governance Education in the Asia Pacific Region**

**Organisation:** AusAid

**Contact Person:** Ms Julie Clarke-Bates

**Address:** GPO Box 887  
Canberra ACT 2601

**JSCFADT HUMAN RIGHTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

**INQUIRY INTO HUMAN RIGHTS & GOOD GOVERNANCE  
EDUCATION IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION – 12 MAY 2003**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING**

***Q1. Senator Harradine: How is human rights and good governance education incorporated into aid projects and programs? Are they usually limited 'blueprint' projects or phased projects that seek to develop rather than preempt objectives, outcomes and indicators?***

When incorporating human rights and good governance education in the aid program, program managers, activity designers and implementers are guided by:

- the Eighth Annual Statement to Parliament on Australia's Development Cooperation Program (Ministerial Statement 1998) which outlines the Government's policy on human rights and is still current,
- the Good Governance Guiding Principles (2000),
- AusGUIDE and its associated guidelines such as the appraisal checklist which includes reference to the Office Procedure Circular on Human Rights and the Aid Program (30/1999).

Human rights also underpin key policy documents such as the health, education, gender and rural development policies, and the Guides to HIV/AIDS and gender and development.

***Q2. ALHR (Submission 26) argue that English language ability and the ability to access the Internet are two of the most effective tools for accessing human rights and good governance information. What primary and on-going support and training do you provide in this area?***

In 2003-04, the Australian government aid program will provide an estimated \$270 million for education, assisting our partner countries to strengthen institutional capacity, to improve literacy, numeracy, vocational and technical training. This funding will also include around 1110 new scholarships for developing country students to study at Australian institutions, and around 240 new scholarships for PNG and Pacific Island students to study at their local and regional institutions.

In August 2001, Australia and the World Bank launched the Virtual Colombo Plan (VCP), a joint initiative to improve the access of developing countries to knowledge and information through new information technologies, in order to address the growing digital divide. The Australian government has committed \$200 million over five years to the VCP. One of the key activities undertaken by the VCP in addressing the issue of access to information on good governance is through the establishment of the Australian Development Gateway, an Internet portal that showcases Australian development expertise and knowledge, with a focus on the Asia Pacific region. Governance will be a

core knowledge area of the Australian Gateway, and the website will launch a dedicated governance section before the end of 2003.

As one measure of ongoing support to training and access, in 2002 over 300 students annually were studying in Australia under the Australian Development Scholarship Scheme in disciplines relating to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). These students will return to their home countries and to jobs that help to improve their countries' ICT infrastructure.

As part of the VCP, the aid program is also supporting a number of pilot activities to demonstrate the opportunities provided by ICTs in assisting development. One example is a program through AESOP to provide an ICT toolkit for Australian volunteers working with the Young Entrepreneurs Business Mentoring Program.

***Q3. A key proposal put to the Committee is for the establishment of a National Centre for Human Rights Education. What role would you envisage AusAID and/or DFAT playing in this initiative?***

AusAID is aware of the new National Centre for Human Rights Education being set up by Curtin University. We do not envisage any specific role for AusAID in the establishment of this initiative.

***Q4. The Committee recently heard from Professor Jim Ife, Haruhisa Handa Professor of Human Rights Education at Curtin University. Is this the type of program AusAID would be keen to support? Has AusAID been in contact with Professor Ife in regard to establishing opportunities for overseas students to undertake the postgraduate courses that are to be offered, such as scholarships?***

AusAID is aware of the Human Rights Education and Practice course being developed at Curtin University.

Promoting improved governance across all areas of partner governments and strengthening democratic processes are guiding themes underpinning Australia's aid program. Raising awareness of, and capacity to address, human rights issues are elements of these activities.

Overseas students can study human rights courses at education institutions (including Curtin University) contracted to AusAID under the Australian Development Scholarship (ADS) Scheme. ADS awardees are selected on academic merit and study in priority sectors, including governance, agreed with each of our partner governments. ADS scholarships are not earmarked for particular courses, nor tied to a particular institution.

***Q5. ACFOA (Submission 23) argues that effective and sustainable progress in good governance and human rights can only be built on investment in basic education. To what extent are human rights and good governance principles prioritised within AusAID's basic education projects?***

The aid program's focus on poverty reduction and sustainable development strengthens the capacity and climate for the realisation of all rights. Aid program activities targeted

at basic education are important in providing the foundation for better attainment of human rights.

Good governance is intrinsic to the sustainability of quality service delivery and is a central tenet of all education sector activities, especially those that aim to build administrative and planning capacities in the education sector.

**Q6. ACFOA has recommended that the Australian government should develop new cooperative arrangements to support and enhance the work being done by Australian development NGOs in promoting human rights and good governance. What is your response? Are NGOs adequately supported?**

Accredited NGOs have access to the AusAID NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). Funding for this program this financial year totalled \$25.9 million. The goal of the ANCP is to subsidise Australian NGO's own community development activities which directly and tangibly alleviate poverty in developing countries. To be eligible for funding activities must meet the ANCP guidelines. Activities promoting human rights and good governance can and have been funded through this scheme.

**Q7. Senator Bolkus: You have provided details for the funding for the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for 2001-02. Could you give us those figures for the last decade on an annual basis? Can you also provide annual figures for the decade for Australia's Global Human Rights Program, the Human Rights Fund and the Centre for Democratic Institutions, to the extent that these programs have been running, so that we may make a comparison?**

See Attachment A.

**Q8. Mr Price: Can you clarify the amounts of aid provided to deal with trafficking in women across the region, as well as the total provided in order to give us a more comprehensive assessment of these contributions?**

Trafficking is a large and increasing problem in Southeast Asia. The number of women and children trafficked annually in the region is estimated at 225,000. Australia is continuing to respond to this growing problem through the aid program by providing a range of interventions, totalling over \$15.8 million. Details of trafficking and related activities funded in Southeast Asia since 1995 are provided below:

<b>Activity Title</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
<i>Asia Regional Cooperation to Prevent People Trafficking</i> is a new 3-year project that commenced in April 2003 to assist countries in the region to achieve more effective prosecution of traffickers with appropriate victim support. Initial activities will provide training and support for new anti-trafficking units being established in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand. Information and lessons learned from these prevention and prosecution activities will then be shared with all ASEAN member countries and China to help develop a more effective regional approach.	8,500,000
<i>International Organization for Migration (IOM) Return and Reintegration of Trafficked and other Vulnerable Women and Children Between Selected Countries in the Mekong Region.</i> This 3-year project (2000-2003) is helping to establish cross-border working arrangements for the return and reintegration of trafficked women and children within the Mekong region. Over 500 trafficking victims have so far been provided with care and support under this project.	4,700,000
<i>United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Inter Agency Project on Trafficking in Women and Children in the Mekong Sub-region.</i> This 5-year project (1999-2004) was set up to coordinate donor efforts to reduce the incidence of trafficking of women and children. Support is being provided for action networks for welfare, legal, policy and law enforcement officers. Victim protection and empowerment programs have been developed and support provided for the reintegration of victims being returned to their home country.	950,000
<i>IOM Capacity Building on Protection of Trafficking Victims, particularly women and children.</i> Model MOUs between governments in the Mekong region and with NGOs were developed to establish agreed procedures for assisting and repatriating trafficked victims through this two and a half year project (2000-2002).	300,000
<i>Australia-China Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program.</i> Under this activity, training and community level anti-trafficking workshops were provided in 2001-02 and 2002-03 for officials and community workers on combating trafficking in women and children.	243,000
Support for regional representation at Bali Ministerial Conferences on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (held in 2002 and 2003) and at the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Workshop on Trafficking in Women and Children (held in Thailand in June 2002).	325,000
<i>Australia Vietnam Human Rights Small Grants Fund</i> has recently approved support for reintegration of trafficked women returning from Thailand and China to the northern border area of Vietnam.	44,000
<i>Small Activities</i> delivered between 1996-98 provided: interpreting services for Burmese women and girls in Thai detention centres and NGO shelters; produced a booklet in Cambodia to help raise public awareness on trafficking; and provided assistance to help document cases and support young Burmese women trafficked into Thailand.	14,146
<b>SUB-TOTAL for TRAFFICKING in WOMEN:</b>	<b>\$15,076,146</b>

<i>Protecting Exploited Child Labourers in the Philippines.</i> This 5 year \$2.3 million activity (1995-2000) implemented through UNICEF focused primarily on child labour, but also addressed trafficking. Assistance was provided for the protection and rehabilitation of abused and exploited child victims of trafficking, sexual exploitation and child labour (\$600,000 attributable to child trafficking).	600,000
<i>Human Rights Small Grants Scheme – Thailand</i> Assistance provided between 2000-2002 for three activities helping victims of child trafficking in Bangkok, promoting the human rights of refugee and migrants in Thailand and working with migrant children.	113,363
<i>Traffic in Children in Greater Mekong Area.</i> This activity provided training programs to prevent and monitor trafficking in children in the Greater Mekong Area (1995-96).	48,324
<b>TOTAL for all Trafficking and Related Activities:</b>	<b>\$15,837,833</b>

**Q9. Mr Price:** *Can you follow-up with the Attorney General's Department, or whoever is most appropriate, as to any monitoring of people's understanding of human rights in Australia?*

AusAID is unable to comment on the activities of other agencies.

**Q10. Senator L. Ferguson:** *Please can you provide further evidence of the impact of your programs in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh on getting girls to return to school?*

In Bangladesh, AusAID supported programs have contributed to the achievement of improved school participation and retention rates among 700,000 school children. Girls' enrolment is now on a par with boys.

In Pakistan, Australia and UNICEF are working together to strengthen the capacity of Education Department officials & teachers in four districts in rural Balochistan. Over the last 3 years the project has facilitated the enrolment of an additional 26,000 young girls in primary schools in these districts - an increase of 33%.

In parts of India, UNICEF, supported by funding from AusAID, has been working with the Indian education authorities in support of the Government of India's policy on universalisation of elementary education. Under this scheme 200 community-based schools have been established, providing access to primary education for over 6,000 children, mainly girls.

In Afghanistan, AusAID is contributing to the Afghan Ministry of Education and UNICEF supported 'Back to School Campaign'. In 2002 more than 3 million children, 60 per cent of the child population, returned to the classrooms of Afghanistan. Some 30 per cent of those 3 million children were girls.

***Q11. Senator Baird: What percentage of aid goes into, or is directly related to human rights training, specifically in the Pacific, but in other areas as well? Has there been a reduction or increase in real terms in recent years?***

Training in human rights is a large part of the activities funded under the Human Rights Fund which includes the Asia Pacific Forum, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Small Grants Scheme. Expenditure under the Human Rights Fund has increased from \$379,988 in 1996-97 to an estimated \$1.3 million in 2003-04.

Human rights training is also included in a number of governance activities across the aid program. In the Pacific, human rights training focusing on the rights of women and children is conducted by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and the Vanuatu Women's Centre. Human rights training is also incorporated in the Pacific Judicial Education Program. In other areas specific aid activities that focus on human rights training are the Burma Human Rights Training, the Human Rights Technical Co-operation program in China, and the Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue. Expenditure on governance activities over the last three years has increased from 9% of total aid in 1996-97 to an estimated 21% in 2003-04.

***Q12. Senator Baird: To what extent are NGOs and private sector organisations involved in human rights training?***

Through the AusAID NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) AusAID jointly funds a number of Australian NGO activities which contain components of Human Rights training.

The Australian private sector plays a large and crucial role mainly in the delivery of Australia's bilateral aid program. The aid program relies heavily on the private sector to design and implement aid projects, including training.

***Q13. Senator Payne: Is the Castan Centre the only organisation delivering the human rights training initiative in Burma?***

The Castan Centre of Monash University is contracted by AusAID to provide activities under the Human Rights Initiative (HRI). In the delivery of some training workshops, the Castan Centre collaborates with relevant international organisations operating in Burma who make specialised contributions to the activities. These have included UNICEF, World Vision and Save the Children (UK). The UNSG Special Envoy to Burma, Razali Ismail, has also spoken at HRI workshops.

In addition, the training program for two Burmese judges in Sydney in June 2002 was organised by the International Development Law Institute - a Geneva-based organisation with a branch office in Sydney.

**Q14. Senators Harradine & Payne: To what extent are human rights incorporated into health programs such as HIV/AIDS? What are the practical consequences of this?**

In working to improve the health of populations in developing countries, AusAID health programs seek to promote health both as a human right on its own and also as a foundation upon which to address broader human rights issues in countries concerned.

In particular, the promotion of human rights is incorporated into AusAID health programs through support for efforts to:

- reduce discriminatory behaviour, for example through the provision of education and information to general populations on the facts of HIV/AIDS. These efforts serve to reduce the scale and impact of stigma and discrimination associated with the virus, especially with respect to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- strengthen institutional arrangements, such as the development of national HIV/AIDS strategies and legislation to protect the human rights of affected populations. A recent example of activity in this area is the support provided for the preparation of draft Papua New Guinea HIV/AIDS management and prevention legislation.

AusAID's *Guide to HIV/AIDS and Development* assists project designers, managers and implementers with their work on HIV/AIDS projects. It includes specific references to human rights and promotes consideration of human rights issues by all Australian funded HIV/AIDS projects.

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE HANSARD:**

**Q15. Mr Price: Please provide a more comprehensive assessment of the table in the DFAT/AusAID submission i.e. please total the figures (refer to pg. 46 of the Hansard).**

<b>Australian Aid Activities that Directly Support Human Rights and Good Governance in the Asia Pacific Region, 2001-02*</b>		
	<b>Expenses 2001-02 (\$'000)**</b>	<b>% of total</b>
Civil Society and Human Rights	106,208	45
Public Sector Reform	89,170	37
Legal and Judicial Development	23,370	10
Other Governance	18,400	8
<b>Total Human Rights and Governance</b>	<b>237,148</b>	<b>100</b>

\* In accordance with the TORs for this Inquiry, this table does not include activities listed under the Governance subcategory of Economic Management.

\*\* Finalised figures for 2001/2002.

**Q16. Mr Price: Please provide a pie chart to illustrate money spent across countries in terms of human rights and governance (refer to pg. 46 of the Hansard).**

See Attachment B



**AusAID's Contribution to the Human Rights Fund and Centre for Democratic Institutions (since commencement) (\$ expenses)**

<b>Activity name</b>	<b>1996-97</b>	<b>1997-98</b>	<b>1998-99</b>	<b>1999-2000</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2002-03 (Est)</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Centre for Democratic Institutions</b>								
Centre for Democratic Institutions		1,076,029	1,000,000	750,000	664,810	1,000,000	1,000,000	<b>5,490,839</b>
<b>Human Rights Fund</b>								
Human Rights Small Grants Scheme			395,021	525,677	787,824	848,746	500,000	<b>3,057,268</b>
Human Rights Ad Hoc Fund			213,948	21,983	52,049	43,028	100,000	<b>431,008</b>
Asia Pacific Forum of National HR Institutions	279,988	252,868	238,665	225,000	245,000	500,000	500,000	<b>2,241,521</b>
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights - National Institutions Project	100,000	150,000	150,000	200,566	200,000	250,000	200,000	<b>1,250,566</b>
<b>Human Rights Fund Total</b>	<b>379,988</b>	<b>402,868</b>	<b>997,634</b>	<b>973,226</b>	<b>1,284,873</b>	<b>1,641,774</b>	<b>1,300,000</b>	<b>6,980,363</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>379,988</b>	<b>1,478,897</b>	<b>1,997,634</b>	<b>1,723,226</b>	<b>1,949,683</b>	<b>2,641,774</b>	<b>2,300,000</b>	<b>12,471,202</b>

**Australian Aid Activities that directly support Human Rights and Good Governance in the Asia Pacific region in 2001-02**

