



Submission No 121

Inquiry into Australia's Relations with Indonesia

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**JSCFADT Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee
Inquiry into Australia's relationship with Indonesia
Request for further information from AusAID**

1. Brief outline of Australia's aid to Papua

Papua is one of eight priority provinces identified in the 2003+ Australia-Indonesia country program strategy, which was agreed with the Government of Indonesia in late 2003. It has one of the highest incidences of poverty in Indonesia.

- Against almost all key socio-economic indicators (life expectancy, literacy, etc.), Papua scores worse than the national average and worse than almost all other provinces.

Current AusAID-Funded Activities in Papua

- A multi-province Safe Motherhood Program, implemented by UNICEF in five districts in Papua (Jayapura, Manokwari, Biak, Wamena and Sorong) was supported until December 2003. A further two-year program of assistance (\$A5.6million), with a continuing focus on Papua, is currently under consideration. The Papua component, should it proceed, will effectively build on previously-supported safe motherhood activities in the province. (The project will also work in districts not covered by Australia's existing Women's Health and Family Welfare Project in East Nusa Tenggara.)
- Australia recently announced a \$4.9 million contribution to the UNICEF/UNESCO Creating Learning Communities for Children (CLCC) program (a school improvement initiative) under which some assistance will be provided to the districts of Jayapura and Sorong.
- In 2003-04 Papuans will receive tourism training at a cost of about \$260,000 under the multi-province Indonesia-Australia Partnership for Skills Development Project.
- Assistance is provided to Papua through the Indonesia-Australia Specialised Training Project (IASTP) and the Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) program, although the extent of this assistance is limited by logistical and other factors.
 - Nonetheless, since 1998, 322 Papuans have benefited from specialised short course training under IASTP and 30 have received ADS awards for in-Australia post-graduate study.
 - It is anticipated that IASTP will provide training to Papuans in Basic Health Service Delivery and District and Provincial Planning during 2004-05.
- Papua, which is believed to have about one-third of Indonesia's HIV/AIDS cases, is included in Phase II of Australia's HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project. The funding allocation for Papua for 2003-04 under this project is approximately \$A900,000. Australian assistance will strengthen the capacity of the Provincial HIV/AIDS Commission; help develop strategies for reducing sexual transmission which reflect the specific patterns of sexual transmission in the province; and provide improved access to care, support and treatment.

- Under the 2003-04 AusAID NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), and with the support of Indonesia's Ministry of National Education, AusAID is funding the UNICEF Australia project "Scaling up Life Skills Education for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care in Papua Province", which is working in the districts of Jayapura, Biak, Jayawijaya, Manokwari and Sorong.
- Modest levels of assistance to Papua are provided through the Indonesia-Australia Government Sector Linkages Program (GSLP), which supports development activities implemented by Australian Government agencies. Current activities are:
 - strengthening animal and plant health and agricultural quarantine (DAFF, \$221,000, yet to commence); and
 - enhancing local government planning and management capacity at Lorentz National Park natural world heritage property (Environment Australia, \$229,000, ends June 2004).
- As part of the national training component of Australia's Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Program (COREMAP), \$25,000 will be spent in 2003-04 on strengthening the management and technical skills of Papuan officials responsible for the sustainable management and rehabilitation of local coral reefs.
- The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research is also active in Papua with three current projects (bee mites, surra disease, and sweet potato and pigs).
- Australia provided almost \$9 million of emergency and other drought relief assistance to Papua during 1997-98 and 1998-99. A contribution of \$A50,000 was provided through the Australian Red Cross in response to the 6 February earthquake near Nabire.

2. Confirmation that the four areas that have been selected for the area focussed approach are East Java, South Sulawesi, NTT and NTB. What advantages are there for these four areas over the other four that together comprise the 8 areas in Indonesia targeted for assistance? Do they in effect get more assistance or is it more a matter of delivering aid in a better way?

The Australia-Indonesia Country Program Strategy 2003+ incorporated a commitment to adopt a more "area-focused" approach in eastern Indonesia so as to achieve greater and more measureable impacts on poverty. This approach encompasses a stronger emphasis on strategic, long-term relationships with selected districts; a concomitant concentration of resources in those districts; and greater attention to opportunities for coordination and reinforcement between geographically overlapping Australian-supported programs.

This area-focused approach will be pursued incrementally through a number of closely coordinated activities to be implemented in selected districts within four focal provinces, initially in selected districts of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) and subsequently, to varying extents, in other districts of NTT and in the provinces of East Java, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) and Southeast Sulawesi. These four provinces were targeted because they have a high incidence of poverty and rank among Indonesia's poorest and most vulnerable on a range of development indicators. Target provinces not included in this group of four provinces will still benefit from Australian assistance but are regarded as less suitable for a comprehensive, area-focused approach. Over time, it is likely that provinces in which Australia is taking an area-focused approach will receive a higher proportion of Australia's aid resources, on average, than other provinces.

AusAID is currently in the process of identifying activities that could form the basis of an area-focused approach in five districts of NTT. It is envisaged that these activities will include programs of assistance both in district- and provincial-level governance and in the principal development sectors of health, education, water supply and sanitation, fisheries and rural development.

3. Details of Australia's involvement in HIV/AIDS programs in Papua and how these fit in with its assistance in this area in Indonesia as a whole. Details of levels of expenditure.

This question is partly answered in the response to question 1 above. Australian assistance related to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in Indonesia is likely to total more than \$60 million over the period 1995 to 2007. Current assistance targets six provinces: Bali, South Sulawesi, NTT, DKI Jakarta (i.e. greater Jakarta), Papua and West Java. Areas of focus are policy and coordination, prevention of sexual and drug-related transmission of HIV, and improving access to care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

4. AWPA suggested in a submission that the Australian Government should 'offer aid not only to combat the AIDS/HIV epidemic but also to train local West Papuan health workers and nurses in the field of general health and support infrastructure for these health workers to reach the more remote areas of the province'. Does Australia have any projects endeavouring to do this?

AusAID is actively pursuing opportunities to expand its health sector assistance to Papua beyond the current emphasis on HIV/AIDS. In AusAID's view, it is in the health sector that Australia is most likely to be able to make a decisive contribution. As indicated above, AusAID is currently considering support for a substantial UNICEF Safe Motherhood program in Papua. Subject to successful implementation of the early stages of the HIV/AIDS and safe motherhood programs in Papua, AusAID will be seeking to identify other options for health sector assistance to Papua, including those along the lines set out in the AWPA submission. At this point, however, access to Papua for aid personnel is somewhat constrained, limiting AusAID's ability to design, appraise, implement and monitor programs. Even without extensive program activities on the ground, the Indonesia-Australia Specialised Training (IASTP) Project and the Australian Development Scholarships program will continue to provide opportunities for local level service providers, including those working in the health sector, to acquire a range of relevant skills.