

Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Senate Budget Estimates, June 2011
Questions on Notice: AusAID

Question No. 2

Senator Brown asked on notice

- a) The 2011-12 aid budget announced the termination of the Pacific Land Program. Why has this program been cancelled?
- b) The aid budget also indicates that ongoing funding of the land reform agenda will be pursued bilaterally. Can you provide details on existing and planned land reform initiatives in the Pacific island countries, including amounts, timeframes and implementing agencies?

Answer:

- a) The regional Pacific Land Program budget measure was terminated due to a lack of demand for assistance on such a large scale within the program's four year time frame. The aid program retains the flexibility to respond to requests for assistance from individual Pacific countries that have a strong commitment to land reform.
- b) AusAID's only land program in the Pacific at present is in Vanuatu. In January 2011 AusAID signed a five-year, \$20 million program of support to improve land management and administration under Vanuatu's ten-year National Land Sector Framework. Future land reform assistance to other Pacific countries would be considered on request from those countries, in the context of Australia's bilateral Partnerships for Development.