



# EDUCATION SECTOR

Development cooperation fact sheet April 2019

The Foreign Policy White Paper reaffirms the priority of addressing inclusive growth through human development. Quality education can help individuals, families and communities achieve their aspirations and realise their full potential.

## Strategic direction

Australia is investing in quality education for children and youth across the Indo-Pacific to reduce poverty, support sustainable **economic growth** and enhance stability. A 10 percentage point increase in the share of students reaching basic literacy has been associated with 0.3 percentage points higher **economic growth**.

**Education** helps empower women, girls, people with **disabilities** and other marginalised populations in various ways, including by providing pathways to employment.

Our investments support Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 (Quality Education), and contribute to other SDGs. In line with the *Strategy for Australia's aid investments in education*, investments target four strategic priorities:

- getting the foundations right;
- learning for all;
- universal participation; and
- skills for prosperity.

The Strategy guides official development cooperation expenditure in education, and supports country, regional and global programs to make informed choices.

Australia is strongly committed to supporting the educational needs of children and youth in emergencies. Australia is contributing \$10 million to the Education Cannot Wait fund.

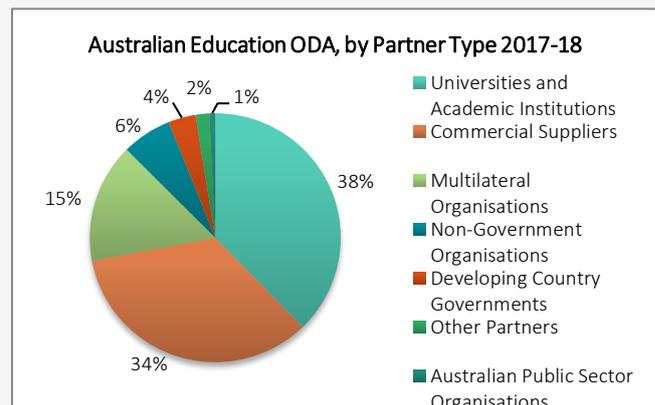
To maximise the effectiveness of our investments, Australia works with a range of partners including partner governments, the private sector, the Global Partnership for Education, non-government organisations and academic institutions.

## For more details:

<http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/strategy-for-australias-aid-investments-in-education-2015-2020.aspx>

Australian ODA	2017-18 Actual (\$m)	2018-19 Estimated Outcome (\$m)	2019-20 Budget Estimate (\$m)
Pacific	211.4	210.3	229.2
Southeast and East Asia	245.4	238.9	215.8
South and West Asia	61.1	68.5	66.4
Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East	61.2	44.0	43.8
Rest of the World*	64.2	79.0	63.9
<b>Total Australian Education ODA</b>	<b>643.4</b>	<b>640.7</b>	<b>619.1</b>

\*Includes ODA that is not attributed to particular countries or regions.  
Note: All outcome and budget figures include scholarships.



## Results in 2017-2018

- In Myanmar, Australia contributes to a school grants program that reaches approximately 10 million students across 47,000 schools. Targeted stipends were provided to over 46,000 disadvantaged students to allow them to continue their education.
- In Timor-Leste, almost 4,000 people have new skills for work in a range of sectors including basic construction and hospitality. Trainees are better prepared to participate in seasonal work in Australia.
- In Kiribati, almost 2,820 children are benefitting from improved learning environments in 55 new or refurbished classrooms. New Year 7 curriculum materials and teacher guides are supporting improved learning in all government schools.

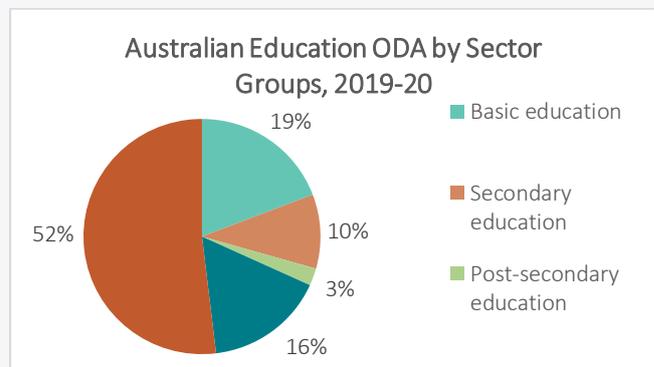
- Through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program 178,984 additional children were enrolled in school (including 6,357 with disabilities) and 14,772 teachers (171 with disabilities) were trained in order to improve learning outcomes.

### Current Priorities

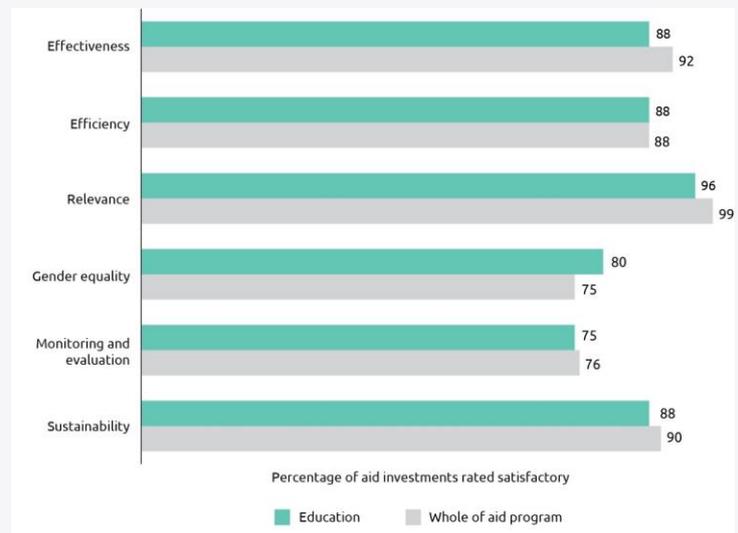
- Support investment in early childhood development programs including through mapping DFAT's and other donors' early childhood programs.
- Support better learning outcomes in pre-primary, primary, secondary and post-secondary education through improved learning environments, curricula development, provision of learning materials, education data, and enhanced teacher capability.
- Enable the most marginalised in society, including girls, ethnic minorities, children with disabilities, and children in emergencies to receive a quality education.
- Improve the quality, relevance, cost-effectiveness and industry engagement in Pacific TVET (technical and vocational education training) services by embedding the Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC) in partner country systems.
- Complement our bilateral programs through global initiatives like the Global Partnership for Education.



Photo credit: Connor Ashleigh for AusAID.



### Education Investments Performance 2017-18 % of Aid Investments rated Satisfactory



#### Gender equality

Investments in education continue to perform well on gender equality and women's empowerment. 80% of education investments are rated satisfactory.

#### Disability inclusiveness

Disability inclusiveness is being supported through 12 inclusive education investments across seven countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

#### Indigenous peoples / ethnic minorities

The Decentralising Funding to Schools Project in Myanmar works to improve equity for ethnic minorities. A research study to help understand the operating environment challenges and opportunities will be finalised in early 2019.

#### Innovation

An innovation competition in partnership with MIT Solve and Australian company Atlassian is helping disadvantaged young people in the Indo-Pacific prepare for the workforce of the future. Funding supports promising pilots.

