Australia has an enduring interest in Tonga’s stability and prosperity. Australia supports economic reform, private sector development, stronger health systems and skills development.

**Strategic direction**

Australia’s three strategic objectives in Tonga, which align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are to:

- enable economic **stability and growth** (SDG8);
- strengthen the **health** system (SDG3) and reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs); and
- support **skills development** (SDG4), with a particular focus on opportunities for **women** (SDG5) and people with a **disability** (SDG10).

We also continue to address the cross-cutting issues of **climate change** adaptation (SDG13), **disaster resilience** and preparedness, **gender equality** (SDG5) and **disability inclusion** (SDG10).

**Program highlights**

- Australia was one of the first to respond when Tropical Cyclone Gita struck in February 2018 (providing 135 tonnes of emergency supplies) and is a major contributor to **reconstruction** ($14 million in total).
- **Economic reforms** supported by the development cooperation program have helped increase revenues and strengthen procurement.
- We are helping to address the burden of **NCDs** through improved primary care; the provision of mobility devices like wheelchairs and prosthetics; and helping people quit smoking with a national anti-tobacco campaign.
- Australia offered 34 **Australia Awards** scholarships for Tongans to commence study in 2018: (13 in Australia; 21 in the Pacific) and supported 20 **Australian Volunteers for International Development** in 2017-18.

For more details:

- Australia-Tonga Aid Partnership (2016 - 2019)
- Tonga Aid Investment Plan 2015-16 to 2018-19

*Due to rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.*