



NCCTRC, QFES and FRNSW End of Grant Evaluation | **MANAGEMENT RESPONSE**

In August 2022, DFAT commissioned an independent evaluation of the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC), Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and Fire and Rescue New South Wales (FRNSW) grants to examine the effectiveness of the investments and achievement of grant outcomes, including efficiency and relevance. The evaluation report was completed by Alinea International in December 2022 and included multiple practical recommendations to help inform the remaining implementation period and future design processes for new grant agreements with the partners.

DFAT agrees or partially agrees with the below recommendations.

End of Grant Evaluation Recommendations and Management Response

Recommendations for DFAT

Recommendation	Response	Explanation	Action Plan	Timeframe
1. DFAT to develop a program strategy for all humanitarian capacity building investments.	Partially Agree	<p>DFAT recognises the benefit of an approach to capacity building that ensures consistency (where appropriate) and better coordination.</p> <p>Further, DFAT recognises that these humanitarian capacity building investments must respond to the clear call from the Pacific region to strengthen national and regional level preparedness and response.</p> <p>DFAT will continue to support strengthening national and regional</p>	<p>This recommendation will be considered as part of DFAT’s design for a future phase of disaster response capacity building investments where relevant.</p> <p>DFAT will work alongside Pacific partner agencies to develop initiatives that strengthen the knowledge, understanding, tools and resources of emergency management professionals. Such initiatives will support Pacific emergency management professionals to respond to disasters in their own countries and across the Pacific region as well as assist with better coordination of Australian-based deployment capabilities when needed.</p>	Throughout the life of the grant agreements

		institutional capacity of emergency management agencies to support diversity, social and disability inclusion and leadership.		
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Recommendations for DFAT, NCCTRC, FRNSW and QFES

Recommendation	Response	Explanation	Action Plan	Timeframe
<p>2. DFAT and grant partners to take a co-design approach to the next investment designs.</p> <p>a) Future investment designs should: include a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework and system that is practical and resourced to meet DFAT’s standards;</p> <p>b) consider and embed DFAT’s thematic priorities and policies for gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI), child protection and prevention of sexual exploitation, harassment and abuse (PSEAH);</p> <p>c) include an engagement strategy to better facilitate partner countries to join the program activities;</p> <p>d) delineate more clearly between the deployable mechanisms (AUSMAT, AUS-1 DART, AUS-2 DART), the capacity building which may take place within a</p>	Agree	DFAT supports a co-design approach, including the elements listed in (a)-(e).	<p>The new investment design process for NCCTRC’s regional engagement program has been partner-led, allowing DFAT and NCCTRC to work collaboratively. The investment design process is now complete.</p> <p>A robust M&E framework will be integrated into governance and reporting obligations for NCCTRC.</p> <p>DFAT agrees that a co-design approach be utilised for the next FRNSW and QFES grant agreements.</p> <p>GEDSI and PSEAH priorities and policies will be integrated into the investment design both as a mainstreamed approach and through specific activities. A GEDSI strategy will be part of the new program.</p> <p>Program management mechanisms, including regular reporting channels and risk monitoring and management will be developed as part of the investment design process. This will include six-monthly and annual reporting requirements.</p>	Throughout the new grant design processes.

<p>deployment and the standalone capacity building programs;</p> <p>e) include a program management strategy for each grant partner with an appropriate level of resources available for program reporting, communications, risk management and monitoring.</p>				
<p>3. Establish stronger relationships between DFAT and each grant partner through increased resourcing for program management and governance. This would include:</p> <p>a) regular communication between the Executive Director of NCCTRC, and the Commissioners of FRNSW and QFES with senior DFAT humanitarian staff to discuss delivery of humanitarian capacity building assistance.</p> <p>b) facilitation of peer learning mechanisms to enable the grant partners to meet DFAT’s program management expectations.</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>DFAT acknowledges stronger relationships could be established through increased resourcing for program management and governance across all partnerships.</p>	<p>DFAT and NCCTRC have a strong working relationship. The new investment design process provides an opportunity to embed regular governance meetings to enable improved communication, as well as potential peer learning mechanisms.</p> <p>DFAT will also engage with NCCTRC as part of any relevant initiatives that support emergency management professionals in the Pacific to strengthen peer learning.</p> <p>DFAT, FRNSW and QFES already have a strong relationship and will work together through formalised regular meetings and peer learning mechanisms to establish even stronger relationships. The new design process will be supported by engagement of a Partnership Broker to continue to strengthen the partnership between DFAT, technical teams and NEMA.</p> <p>Delineation between deployable capacity-building activities and standalone capacity building programs will be clearly articulated as part of the new grant design.</p>	<p>Commencing January 2023 throughout duration of new grant agreements.</p>