

21 February 2014

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Consultation: Performance Benchmarks for Australian Aid**



development.results@dfat.gov.au

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the performance benchmarks for the Australian aid program.

Family Planning NSW supports the development of rigorous benchmarks to assess the performance of the Australian Aid program to ensure it delivers effective and efficient outcomes in the national interest.

We are a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and support the council's submission dated January 2014.

Our work in family planning and reproductive and sexual health in the Asia Pacific region is targeted to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. While we support transparency and accountability at all levels (whole of aid program, program, implementation and partner, and project levels), we believe it's important to not lose sight of the complexity and variety of projects that go into meeting higher level targets.

Women's empowerment is one such area - access to family planning and improving reproductive and sexual health is critical in allowing women to gain employment, and live free from discrimination and sexual violence. Family planning can also improve child and maternal health. Measuring family planning's contribution to these target, when it may not be a specific project within the funded program, is difficult but important in accurately determining the impact of Australian aid funding.

Family Planning NSW also supports implementing mechanisms that enable the scaling up of projects that are achieving results. One of the barriers we have faced in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is having Australian aid deliverables, which have been positively evaluated, not embraced by the local government due to a lack of infrastructure.

One such opportunity relates to the *Clinical Health, Men's Programs, Advocacy and Sexual Health Strengthening Project (COMPASS) 2007-2012* which was supported as part of the AusAID funded PNG Australia Sexual Health Improvement Program (PASHIP).

In response to a National Department of Health (NDOH) request, the project developed the *Post Basic Certificate Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health for Nurses and HEOs* which was piloted in Lae Morobe Province in 2012. This was the first post graduate course in sexual and reproductive health delivered in Papua New Guinea with nine nurses graduating in 2012.

It was hoped the course would be adopted by PNG educational institutions, however despite positive evaluation, the course has not been take up due to the limited capacity of these institutions and an inability to obtain additional funding to implement the course.

In order to capitalise on the Australian aid investment, we need to ensure there are systems in place to continue and to scale up projects that have been successful in their implementation.

If you require further information, please contact Jodi McKay, Director Communications, Government and Community Affairs [jodim@fpnsw.org.au](mailto:jodim@fpnsw.org.au) 0287524356.

Yours sincerely



Ann Brassil  
Chief Executive Officer