



**Official Outcomes Document
Samoa- Australia
Annual High Level Aid Talks
11 December 2013**

The Government of Samoa hosted the annual Samoa-Australia Annual High Level Aid Talks from 9 – 11 December. Australia was represented by Australian High Commissioner to Samoa His Excellency Dr. Stephen Henningham and Minister Counsellor Pacific, John Davidson. Samoa's delegation was led by Lavea Tupa'imatuna Iulai Lavea, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Finance.

2. Samoa and Australia committed to focus efforts on:
- Reducing hardship for vulnerable groups in Samoa, through a partnership based on mutual respect, mutual accountability and friendship.
 - Implementation of Samoa's debt management strategy to maintain macro-economic stability and encourage inclusive economic growth.
 - The priority outcomes of improved education, improved health, governance and economic stability, and law and justice. It was agreed that economic infrastructure would be an increased focus of the partnership. Further support for law and justice would be considered in the context of a new partnership subject to review and with consideration of other priorities for the partnership.

Implementation schedules to progress these priority outcomes over 2013-14 were agreed.

3. The partners noted the 2012-13 Annual Program Performance Report. In particular:
- An effective Government of Samoa led response to the devastating impact of Cyclone Evan including both humanitarian relief and long term recovery.
 - Steps to improve the quality of primary education through the roll out of a new primary curriculum and by enabling 80 per cent of primary schools to achieve minimum service standard and fee free education to over 39,000 students. Partners recognised the need to address the persistent high number of children at risk of not meeting literacy and numeracy standards. Partners committed to robust performance monitoring of new programs to ensure that they impacted positively on learning outcomes.
 - Enabling over 570 children with disabilities to attend schools and providing a further 940 children with life changing screening and early intervention support.
 - Construction of three dental health clinics in urban primary schools and commencement of mobile dental clinics in rural areas.
 - Ongoing improvements to public financial management including audits, tracking of arrears and budget planning which enable more efficient use of government revenue for the people of Samoa.
4. Partners noted the need to build capability and improve performance monitoring of development program implemented through Samoan government systems, including improved collection of gender-disaggregated data.

5. The partners committed to implementing the Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2012-2016, agreed to focus on hardship reduction and economic growth. They agreed to:

- Improve the quality of education to achieve better learning outcomes for young Samoans. Improving teacher performance was highlighted. The partners committed to support Samoa's Education Sector Plan to improve literacy, numeracy and employability outcomes. Samoa confirmed its commitment to meet the pre-conditions for development partner sector wide support and commencing policy focused sector wide governance mechanisms in early 2014 guided by sector leaders.
- The objective of a new health program to improve the health of poor and vulnerable Samoans. The partners agreed to three strategic priorities for the new program: strengthening primary and preventative services; strengthening the broader health system in the areas of human resources, health financing and health information; and strengthening the evidence base and quality of dialogue on technical and allocative efficiency in the sector.
- Target tertiary scholarships programs (Australia Awards) to address Samoa's priority human resource needs. Targeting scholarships in health will be piloted initially, with education – specifically teachers- also to be considered in the initial phase.

6. Samoa's ongoing program of economic reform, debt management and fiscal consolidation and improved donor coordination, through a joint policy action matrix linked to performance-based budget support was discussed. Noting the substantial progress on public financial management reform, consideration could be given to reforms which support private sector led growth and health financing. As well, the focus on rolling out public finance management reforms to line ministries to ensure that risks at ministry level are minimised was also discussed.

7. Issues around labour migration were raised with a request for support where feasible.

8. The partners committed to open and constructive dialogue through the coming year. This will include targeted analysis to inform a new partnership for Australia's assistance to Samoa to be discussed at the 2014 High Level Aid Talks.

9. The partners signed two important agreements at the talks including:

- A joint statement on zero tolerance to fraud in Australia's aid program to Samoa and commitment to improving public financial management systems.
- A Statement of Arrangement outlining the principles of how both Governments will work towards the redevelopment of Samoa's Parliament House.

Signed on 11 December 2013

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Tupa'imatuna Iulai Lavea
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Finance

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H.E. Dr Stephen Henningham
Australian High Commissioner to Samoa