

DoHA and AusAID Partnership Agreement

Partnership Principles

1. The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) share a history of working together on health issues of common interest. Current trends in both the international and domestic arena have seen an increased need for the two agencies to work in partnership, in relation to international health issues and engagement with the World Health Organisation (WHO). The partnership will be governed by the following principles.
 - a) the relationship of the agencies will be one of partnership, valuing the contribution each agency can make to the achievement of common goals; and respecting each agency's responsibilities;
 - b) the partnership will be underpinned by mutual respect, professionalism, integrity, cooperation, the sharing of ideas, open communication and agencies will seek to ensure a 'no surprises' approach in areas of shared strategic priority;
 - c) agencies will work collaboratively to identify and agree shared strategic priorities for Australia's engagement on international health issues: this will involve setting joint objectives and recognising the comparative advantage of each agency.

Shared Strategic Priorities

2. AusAID and DoHA will work together on Australian government policies to:
 - a) strengthen the regional capacity to deal with health issues, including communicable diseases;
 - b) encourage reform and improvement of WHO and other multilateral forums to improve effectiveness both internationally and in our region;
 - c) promote a more strategic approach to WHO's engagement in the region;
 - d) ensure consistency between our international policy approaches in bilateral and multilateral forums;
 - e) engage where relevant on emerging international health issues and issues of mutual interest, including the relationship between health and security and narcotics;
 - f) encourage good governance and public sector management in the region.

Agency Skills and Strengths

3. Each Agency brings different skills and strengths to the Partnership.
4. AusAID's strengths lie in:
 - a) extensive knowledge, experience and expertise on poverty reduction, development and health issues in developing countries.


- b) experience in improving health service delivery, health standards and health policies in developing countries and expertise in management of cooperation programs with these objectives;
 - c) well-established networks and relationships with partner governments, civil society organisations and health research and professional associations in developing countries and Australia;
 - d) extensive overseas infrastructure and delivery systems.
5. DoHA's strengths lie in:
- a) well-established networks with scientific and research organisations and professional associations with important linkages with international partners;
 - b) extensive networks with individual experts and health professionals with highly specific skills and experience;
 - c) policy advice and lessons learned from Australia's experience both domestically and internationally with public health issues;
 - d) well-developed networks with international health agencies and other countries particularly in the Asia Pacific region;
 - e) internationally recognised expertise on a wide range of health policy and program aspects;
 - f) specific expertise in communicable diseases and capacity to provide policy advice;
 - g) expertise in governance and public sector management, particularly in the health sector.

Coordination Arrangements

- 6. Both agencies agree to meet at least annually at the Executive level to identify strategic issues of common interest and to set priorities for cooperation and joint work. Either agency will be able to seek further meetings at this level if necessary.
- 7. Meetings at the Branch-head level and below will be initiated when necessary to take forward issue specific work.
- 8. Both agencies agree to ensure information on points of contact on specific issues is provided and regularly updated to facilitate effective engagement.


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AusAID

9 May 2005

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