

# Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Capacity Development Funding Concept Note

## **Introduction**

AusAID proposes committing up to a total of \$4.5m over three years (\$1.5m a year), commencing in 2011-12, to support Australian USAR overseas deployment in developing countries and Australian international USAR engagement in UNDAC and INSARAG.

## **Funding**

This funding will be divided between State Fire Services, who have, or are in the process of gaining, INSARAG accreditation for international USAR deployments. Currently only FRNSW and QFRS qualify for this funding.

Once agreed, arrangements will be formalised through an Exchange of Letters covering broad principles and reporting requirements.

Funding can be utilised for the following activities:

### *International Engagement Funding Principles*

- This funding is designated for international engagement, training, exercises, INSARAG participation and certification activities.
- Discussions will be held twice yearly to agree to a plan of activities and nominal costings. This will include discussions of likely future events and categories of international engagement.
- Funding will be provided to the Fire Services on agreement of the work plan.
- Should engagement activities not require the full allocation, following discussions and agreement between the parties, the balance can be directed to cache maintenance and development or can be rolled into the next financial year (as long as it does not go beyond 2013-14).
- Travel and accommodation costs are covered under this funding but must be in line with Fire Service and AusAID guidelines.
- A percentage of this funding (10-20%) will be held in reserve for unforeseen events.

### *Cache Management Funding Principles*

- This funding will be designated for maintaining, upgrading and developing USAR equipment and preparing staff for overseas deployments in developing countries.
- This funding cannot be spent on fire service back-office costs such as vehicles or staff salaries.
- Discussions will be held twice yearly to agree to broad components of cache funding.
- Funding will be provided to the Fire Services on agreement of the work plan following agreement and before the start of the second quarter of the financial year.
- Should cache management activities not require the full allocation, following discussions and agreement between the parties, the balance can be rolled into the next financial year (as long as it does not go beyond 2013-14).

## **Reporting**

The Fire Services will provide an interim report at the time of second yearly planning meeting and provide a Financial Acquittal Report before the end of each financial year (timing to be confirmed).