



Australian Government

AusAID



Partnership Framework

Between

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

represented by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

and

The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC)

2009-2015

1. PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

- 1.1 The FWCC is an autonomous, multi-racial non-government organisation established in 1984 that provides crisis counselling and legal, medical and other practical support services for women and children who are survivors of violence, using a human rights and development framework. The FWCC is also involved in public advocacy, legal lobbying, community education and institutional training on gender relations and gender-based violence.
- 1.2 Over the years the FWCC has done pioneering work to document, analyse and support the development of practical programs and services to deal with the problem of violence in Fiji and contemporary Pacific society. The FWCC shares its experience and expertise with other Pacific organisations including technical support and mentoring to the Australian-supported Vanuatu Women's Centre and the Pacific Women's Network against Violence against Women, for which it is the Secretariat. The FWCC is well known and respected both regionally and internationally and its work is enhanced by participation in global networks of women working against violence. The Government of Australia has provided financial support to the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC) since 1989.
- 1.3 The Australian Government recognises that reducing violence against women is crucial to achieving equality between men and women and delivering good development outcomes. On 28 August 2008, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Mr Smith, accepted the MDG3 Champion Torch from the Danish Government to highlight Australia's commitment to gender equality. Australia is committed to intensifying its efforts to address violence against women in Australia and in the Pacific region and aspires to be an international leader on this issue in partnership with national governments, civil society, international donors and multi-lateral organisations. The Australian Government launched on 11 August 2009 a new framework to guide appropriate measures to help eliminate violence against women in Melanesia and East Timor, including Fiji.
- 1.4 On-going support to the FWCC is a core component of Australia's efforts to eliminate violence against women and children in Fiji and the wider Pacific region. The FWCC is recognised as a regional leader in advocacy for women's rights, as well as its strengths in training and mentoring other groups throughout Fiji and the Pacific region.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 In entering this Partnership Framework, the parties mutually acknowledge their commitment to:
 - a. The protection and promotion of human rights, particularly the human rights of women;
 - b. International, regional and national instruments relevant to gender-based violence, for example, the 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;
 - c. The recognition that improved gender equality is crucial to the achievement of the MDGs and to ending violence against women;

- d. The OECD Development Assistance Committee Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations;
 - e. The delivery of effective aid in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Cairns Compact on strengthening Development Cooperation in the Pacific; and
 - f. A closer, stronger and more transparent partnership based on:
 - i) Mutual respect for each partner's contribution and responsibilities, and
 - ii) Open and effective communication, including the sharing of lessons learned to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of joint and separate activities.
- 2.2 The partners recognise and support the FWCC's Phase 5 Program Design Document as the guiding framework for the FWCC's operations from July 2009 to 30 June 2015.

3. SHARED OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Under this Partnership Framework, the partners agree to implement the following mutual objectives:
- a. **Women have access to justice and support services, and violence against women is prevented.** This is in accordance with the FWCC's Phase 5 Program Design Document and Australia's priorities and actions as set out in the report, *Stop Violence: Responding to violence against women in Melanesia and East Timor*
 - b. **To promote gender equality as a central principle of the work to end violence against women in Fiji and the Pacific region.** Both Australia and the FWCC recognise that promoting gender equality and empowering women are key to reducing violence against women. Improving the status of women in society will assist in changing community attitudes to violence against women and enable women to respond to situations of violence.
 - c. **To build public awareness of the outcomes of the AusAID-FWCC partnership.** Both partners will identify and capitalise on opportunities for building public awareness and understanding of the partnership and its outcomes. Where Australia provides financial and/or policy and other practical support for activities led by the FWCC, that support will receive substantive recognition in all associated documents and publications, both hard copy and electronic.

4. PARTNER COMMITMENTS

4.1 The FWCC brings to the partnership:

- a. Programs grounded in human rights and gender sensitive approaches;
- b. Extensive knowledge and understanding of violence against women in Fiji and the Pacific region;
- c. Integrated service provision including counselling and support services;
- d. Experience in lobbying and advocacy for policy and legislative change;
- e. Strengths in networking and working multi-sectorally with a range of stakeholders and partners including government agencies, private sector organisations, civil society and faith based organisations, donors, multi-lateral agencies, international and regional organisations and communities;
- f. Expertise in violence against women preventative programs including working with men and boys; and
- g. Credibility and recognition from Pacific and international organisations.

4.2 The Australian Government brings to the partnership:

- a. Long-term commitment to working towards ending violence against women in the Pacific region;
- b. Financial support for FWCC's programs;
- c. Advisory expertise on the issue of violence against women in the Pacific region, as well as lessons learnt and links to other bilateral and regional programs;
- d. Partnerships with key stakeholders including partner governments, civil society groups, and regional and international organisations;
- e. Engagement in high-level policy dialogue with other partners to raise the importance of addressing violence against women;
- f. Support for research on violence against women including on the prevalence of violence, promising practices to address violence against women, and gaps in services that may inform future responses; and
- g. Relationships with other development partners to promote harmonization in dealings with the FWCC, leverage additional responses and promote coordinated efforts to address violence against women.

5. FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS

- 5.1 The Australian Government will provide core funding to the FWCC, as set out in **Funding Agreement Deed 52787**.
- 5.2 The Australian Government may, from time to time, make additional contributions to the FWCC subject to available resources and agreed priorities.

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTNERSHIP

- 6.1. The Australian Government and the FWCC will pursue this strengthened partnership through a variety of mechanisms, including:
- a. Day-to-day interaction by means of a focal point within the Australian High Commission, Suva;
 - b. Regular meetings including joint meetings with the FWCC, NZAID and the Government of Australia to:
 - i. review progress on program implementation;
 - ii. review the appropriateness of the strategic objectives and partnership commitments and determine whether changes should be made to these objectives/commitments; and
 - iii. set priorities and a work program for joint work in the coming year,
 - c. Engagement at the country and regional level. AusAID will seek to ensure a coherent approach to the FWCC across all of AusAID; and
 - d. Joint research and analysis on priority issues subject to funds availability;
- 6.2 Both partners are committed to:
- a. regular informal contact;
 - b. sharing of all relevant information;
 - c. sharing of contacts for networking purposes;
 - d. involving the other partner in pertinent activities, in Fiji and abroad; and
 - e. raising awareness of each other's functions and activities throughout the region.

7. REPORTING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- 7.1 In respect to measuring the performance of FWCC and its programs, AusAID will rely principally on FWCC's own monitoring and evaluation systems, in particular, FWCC's annual report and work plan, and the Program Design Document for Phase 5.

- 7.2 The FWCC's effectiveness of programs will be assessed primarily through FWCC reporting as set out in Funding Agreement Deed 52787 and may be supplemented by AusAID participation in joint field visits with FWCC.
- 7.3 AusAID, in consultation with the FWCC, will commission independent mid-term and completion reviews of the program to determine its value and impact, in accordance with AusAID's quality processes and requirements.
- 7.4 AusAID will participate in the Program Coordination Committee which meets biannually to review progress on implementation.
- 7.5 The FWCC will cooperate with any evaluation and assessment exercises as are agreed between the parties.

8. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 8.1 Any disputes arising over the interpretation or application of this Partnership Framework will be resolved through mutual discussion and conciliation.
- 8.2 This Partnership Framework is not an international treaty. It is an administrative arrangement between the Government of Australia and the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, called a Partnership Framework.

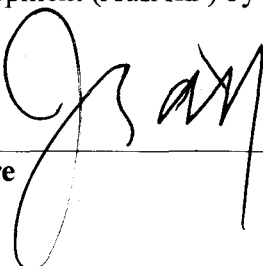
9. DURATION, AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION OF PARTNERSHIP

- 9.1 This Partnership Framework will come into operation on the date of signature on the two original copies and expires on **30 June 2015**.
- 9.2 This Partnership Framework may be modified in writing with the consent of both partners.
- 9.3 This Partnership Framework can be terminated by mutual arrangement between both parties subject to written notice given three months in advance.

SIGNED on this 20th day of October 2009 at Suva, Fiji

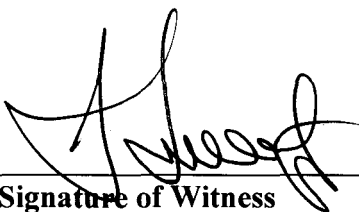
For and on behalf of the
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
represented by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) by

JAMES SWEETING
Name and Position
FMA Act s.44 Delegate


Signature


in the presence of -

JAMES SWEETING
Name of Witness
(Print)


Signature of Witness

SIGNED
for and on behalf of
Fiji Women's Crisis Centre by

Shamina Ali
Name and Position
(Print)


Signature

By executing this Deed the signatory warrants that he/she is duly authorised to execute this Deed on behalf of the Organisation.
in the presence of -

Edwin Kotoisura
Name of Witness
(Print)


Signature of Witness

