



Australian Government

AusAID

## COMBATING AVIAN INFLUENZA IN THE PACIFIC

Australia, through the Government's international aid agency AusAID, has committed more than \$8 million to the Pacific region to fight Avian Influenza and other emerging infectious diseases.

The bulk of Australia's assistance is being delivered through the Pacific Regional Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Project (PRIPPP), and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Under the PRIPPP, SPC and WHO will support Pacific countries:

- develop and test national Influenza Preparedness Plans
- train animal health laboratory staff to diagnose the Avian Influenza virus
- upgrade animal health laboratory equipment and provide essential supplies
- develop existing surveillance and monitoring systems, to enable detection of any suspicious disease outbreaks
- address legislative and legal gaps
- develop a regional communication strategy, which includes community awareness campaigns
- procure essential medical supplies through the development of a regional procurement strategy



PACIFIC: Laboratory training in surveillance and outbreak response

Pacific countries will also benefit from Australia's contributions to:

- The World Food Programme's Avian Influenza Preparedness Special Operation
- The United Nations Development Programme's Thematic Trust Fund for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- The World Bank's Multi-Donor Trust Fund
- WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network

Australia's support focuses on ensuring our partner governments are prepared for a potential outbreak of any emerging infectious disease by improving the capacity of their animal and human health systems to monitor, diagnose and respond to diseases such as Avian Influenza.

To keep up to date on Australia's response to the regional threat of emerging infectious diseases and information about AusAID's work in the Pacific go to <http://www.ausaid.gov.au>