



**AusAID / NGO**  
**Committee for Development Cooperation**

A Joint Committee of the Australian Agency for International Development and  
Australian Non-Government Organisations

**NOTES FROM THE CDC**

**Newsletter No 54 18 June 2003**

*This issue reports on highlights of the 103rd CDC meeting held on 12 June 2003*

**Attendance**

**NGO Representatives**

John Deane  
Wendy Rose  
Jo Thomson  
Sheldon Rankin  
David Syme  
Margaret Winn

**AusAID Representatives**

Alan March (Chair)  
Irene Davies  
Cilla Ballard  
Peter Ellis  
Allison Sudradjat  
Judith Robinson

**Observers**

Rhonda Chapman, ACFOA  
Trish McEwan, ACFOA  
Melinda Johnston, AusAID  
David Gower (AusAID)  
Dianne Matters (AusAID)

**Apologies**

Laury McCulloch

**Secretary**

Carolyn Nimmo, AusAID

**Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

Alan March welcomed Cilla Ballard and Peter Ellis to their first CDC meeting. Cilla is ANCP Manager, replacing Gregory Takats, and Peter Ellis is Director of AusAID's Evaluation Section. Key issues for Community Programs Section (CPS) at present are Cooperation Agreements with NGOs and resource constraints.

**ANCP MANAGEMENT**

AusAID will continue to accept both sectoral and regional grouping of ADPlans for the next 12 months. This policy will be reviewed before the implementation of AusAID's new information management system, Aidworks, in 2004-5.

All accredited NGOs have been sent a letter advising that there is no specific number of members required to meet Accreditation Criteria A2 or D1. NGOs will have to demonstrate *how* they are accountable and responsive to their supporters.

The panel that considered base agency proposals on 11 June 2003 was disappointed many agencies did not adequately address environmental and evaluation issues despite advice from AusAID. It was re-iterated that non-conforming applications would be rejected in future.

Concern was expressed over the tardiness and inaccuracy of some RDE calculations. CPS intends to hold workshops with NGOs to clarify the RDE process. Since other agencies are affected by major errors, AusAID is exploring the idea of implementing

a penalty for major overstatements. AusAID is also exploring a proposal to contract the checking of RDE sheets to financial experts.

It was agreed that the definition of evaluation (currently under revision) in AusGUIDE would be used in NGOPI after clearance from the CDC. NGOs will be advised in October, following the CDC meeting.

The ADPlan Review Report has been sent to all Full agencies.

In future, full agency ADPlans can be accepted by email, with the onus on agencies to ensure appropriate authorisation. CPS will officially advise relevant agencies.

### **ACCREDITATION REVIEWS**

Christian Children's Fund, Fred Hollows Foundation and World Wildlife Fund were reaccredited at the Full level. Medecins sans Frontieres has been reaccredited at the Base level.

The reports on Credit Union Foundation Australia and Rotary Australia are being held for further clarification.

AVI, Palms and Interserve have withdrawn from the ANCP and are undergoing accreditation reviews for a separate volunteer program.

### **ACCREDITATION ISSUES**

As a result of the Reviewers' Workshop (16 April 2003), minor changes are being made to the Indicators and Verifiers in the Accreditation Criteria Table, but not to the criteria themselves. The Table is being separated into Full and Base criteria tables. CPS will advise agencies when the revisions are on the NGOPI.

### **PARTNERSHIPS WITH AusAID**

AusAID remains committed to Cooperation Agreements and recognises that they are proceeding more slowly than anticipated. ACFOA is closely involved in discussions and AusAID is providing frequent opportunities for direct consultation with interested agencies.