



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 46 October 2000

This issue reports on highlights of the 95th CDC meeting held on 12 October 2000

ATTENDANCE AT CDC 95

NGO Representatives

Mike Crooke
David Syme
Wendy Rose
Margaret Winn

Anne Wigglesworth

AusAID Representatives

Ellen Shipley (A/g Chair)
Elizabeth Brouwer
Laurie McCulloch
John Munro

Secretary

Vilaisan Campbell

Observers

Graham Tupper (ACFOA)
Jenny Wells (ACFOA)
Rhonda Chapman (ACFOA)
Jo Thomson (MSF; CDC
member elect)

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Acting Chair gave Ali Gillies', John Deane's and Percy Stanley's apologies. The newly elected NGO CDC member, **Ms Jo Thomson**, was introduced and welcomed as an observer.

The Acting Chair thanked **Ms Anne Wigglesworth** for her contribution as CDC member.

Mr Graham Tupper was congratulated on his promotion to Executive Director of ACFOA and **Ms Rhonda Chapman** welcomed as the replacement for Graham Tupper in the position of Director, Membership Services.

CDC Members were informed that Mr Robert McKinnon had left AusAID and were introduced to **Mr Laurie McCulloch** who has replaced him as an AusAID CDC member.

AUSAID-NGO COOPERATION PROGRAM

AusAID-NGO Cooperation Projects considered for funding since CDC 94

The CDC noted the report of the ANCP Appraisal Panel for the September 2000 funding round. The following proposals were supported:

- 1 **Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) -**
Bikigan - Cagubatan Community Potable Water System Project (Philippines)
- 2 **OzChild : Children Australia (OZCHILD) -**
Vocational Training for Working Children, Madurai (India)
- 3 **Quaker Service Australia (QSA) -**
HIV/AIDS Education and Training - stage 3 (Cambodia)

The following project was supported subject to specified adjustments.

Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) -
Training of Literary Supervisor/Trainers for Vernacular PNG Languages (Papua New Guinea).

The following project was supported but has not yet been funded due to a deterioration of the security situation.

Nusatengarra Association (NTA) -
Village Development Initiatives, (West Timor)

ANCP MANAGEMENT

Number of proposals received for Round 1

Concern was expressed at the small number of proposals received for the 1st Round – only six. AusAID will be contacting agencies to remind them of the datelines for Rounds 2 (15 November) and 3 (15 February).

Quality of Base Proposals

The CDC noted that the percentage of proposals that are being approved by base agency panels has been steadily rising over the last two years, indicating that NGOs are raising the quality of their applications.

Annual Development Plans

AusAID will redraft the NGOPI to provide a clear guideline on how NGOs should report on the expected significant outputs in relation to AusAID funds. Some agencies provide direct relationship between AusAID funds and outputs but others indicate outputs in relation to their overall program. AusAID will clarify its expectation on performance information and redraft the NGOPI providing clear requirements and will notify agencies when the new guidance is included in NGOPI.

NGO spotchecks and RDE spotchecks

Programs of NGO spotchecks and specific spotchecks targeted at RDE worksheets have been developed. This was in response to problems identified during audit and accreditation reviews. A sample of agencies will be spotchecked each year, with the new program starting in December 2000.

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation Recommendations

The following table summarises the accreditation recommendations:

CDC 95	Accreditation Recommendation
Australian Baptist World Aid (ABWAid)	Full Accreditation
Australian Legal Resources International (ALRI)	Full Accreditation
CARE Australia	Full Accreditation
Macfarlane Burnet Centre (MBC)	Full Accreditation

The list showing an updated accreditation status of NGOs is attached.

ELECTRONIC NGOPI

An update

The NGOPI had been live on the AusAID website for 3 months. The training on CDC ROM for the NGOPI will soon be finalised and released to accredited NGOs and CDC members. Updating of the NGOPI's generic selection procedures and the funding opportunities booklet is underway. Only a few comments have been received from NGOs on the NGOPI, indicating a high level of acceptance on the technical and functional improvements.

NGOs are reminded that the electronic NGOPI allows NGOPI documents to be downloaded. After entering the AusAID website at www.ausaid.gov.au, click on NGOs, then NGO Package of Information, then click on Downloads. You will see a listing of the documents available for downloads. Note that each document can be downloaded in either of the two formats, Microsoft Word or Acrobat (PDF). Simply click on the one you prefer and print or save the document to your PC.

OTHER ISSUES

Annual Consultations Feedback

The 2000 AusAID-NGO Annual Consultations held in September provided a good opportunity for beginning exploration of quality. This is a long-term agenda with many issues yet to be considered. The CDC agreed that the next step is for NGOs, through ACFOA, to meet and discuss progress within the NGO sector on considering quality. Further steps in this process will be discussed at the CDC96.

Administrative Overheads

A draft paper on a new approach by AusAID to Administrative Overheads was presented to the CDC. The CDC supported the key recommendation in the paper. AusAID agreed to adopt the Code

of Conduct as the basis for defining the terms used in the draft paper. The paper will now go through AusAID's internal approval processes.

AusAID Quality Assurance Assessment and NGO activities

The CDC was given preliminary information on AusAID Quality Assurance Group (QAG)'s proposal to assess a sample of randomly selected NGO projects. Revisions to the quality study process have been made following further consultations with NGOs. A new approach will include a study of a small sample of NGO activities, to assist and inform panel deliberations on the concept of quality in AusAID funded NGO projects, including through considering the range and variety of approaches used in NGO activities.

The objective of the study is to work with NGOs to:

- (1) Further develop and define the concept of quality for country program funded NGO projects and produce a set of quality standards by which these projects can be assessed (with both of these outputs being taken up for subsequent wider consideration by NGOs and AusAID); and
- (2) Use a small sample of country program funded NGO projects to arrive at preliminary conclusions regarding quality and to identify some common strengths and weaknesses.

Planned outputs of the proposed review will include:

- (1) A draft set of principles for assessing quality in country program funded NGO projects and a suggested checklist of quality standards;
- (2) Preliminary comment about general strengths and weaknesses of projects when considered against these draft quality standards; and
- (3) Brief summaries of panel conclusions about the strengths and weaknesses of each sample project.

The assessment panels will comprise half NGO and half AusAID representatives. The four NGO representatives who have agreed to be part of the panels are: Mike Croke, Jaffer Nurmohamed, Diane MacDonald and Tim O'Shaughnessy. Wendy Rose will also be involved in designing the Assessment Form. This process is expected to take place from late November and lead to workshops with NGOs in early 2001.

Poverty Reduction Framework

The draft of AusAID's Poverty Reduction Framework was presented to the CDC. The challenge is in addressing the question on how to make poverty centre to the aid program. Consultations with ACFOA will occur in November.

Exchange Rate Fluctuations

NGOs are reminded of AusAID policy with respect to the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on NGO activities overseas. The advice was given to NGOs in October 1998 and the electronic NGOPI also provides advice on this issue. Further, NGOs are advised that before EOLs are signed for an activity, NGOs cannot negotiate changes to the successful proposal. Their options are to withdraw or go ahead on the basis of the proposal as considered by the panel.

Dates for future CDC meetings

CDC96: 8 March 2001
CDC97: 7 June 2001
CDC98: 18 October 2001

REMINDERS AND INFORMATION

- Agencies should inform the NGO Section of any difficulties with the website by emailing ngo_liaison@ausaid.gov.au.
- Agencies are also asked to keep NGO Section up-to-date with the email addresses of all their staff who wish to receive email alerts from AusAID. Please submit any updates by email to ngo_liaison@ausaid.gov.au.
- Agencies are reminded that the current list of certified developing countries can be found in Module Six of the revised NGOPI.
- NGOs that earn interest from any account holding AusAID funds, including any involving GST, are advised that the interest earned must be directed only towards AusAID funded activities.
- AusAID will make allocations for overprogramming for Full agencies as early as can be managed to enable NGOs to expend the overprogramming funds this year. NGOs are advised that the existing formula for allocating overprogramming funds to Full agencies will be used.
- Agencies are advised that AusAID intends to test the capacity of Base agencies to absorb an increase in the yearly Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) available from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

This increase is subject to matching funds being provided by the Base agency.

In order to take advantage of this opportunity agencies are urged to consider whether they can increase the proposal size or submit additional proposals up to the \$100,000 limit when submitting funding proposals for the *next* ANCP Base Round: (deadline 15 November 2000).

The increased limit will also apply to the third round of proposals which are due on 15 February 2001.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact Allan Tonkin on 02 6206 4667.

NGO Calendar

November 2000

15 Deadline for applications for Round #2 Base Accredited Agency ANCP submissions

February 2001

15 Deadline for applications for Round #3 Base Accredited Agency ANCP submissions

March 2001

1 Deadline for submission of RDE Worksheets

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AUSAID ACCREDITATION STATUS OF NGOs

As at 25 October 2000

FULL ACCREDITATION		BASE ACCREDITATION	
1	Australian Baptist World Aid (ABWAid)	1	Anglican Board of Mission Australia (ABM)
2	Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA)	2	Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)
3	African Enterprise (AE)	3	Australian Cranio-Maxillo Facial Foundation (ACMFF)
4	Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific (AFAP)	4	Anglicans Cooperating in Overseas Relief and Development (AngliCORD)
5	Australian Legal Resources International (ALRI)	5	ASSISI Aid Projects India (ASSISI)
6	Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) Reporting 1 April	6	Credit Union Foundation Australia (CUFA)
7	Appropriate Technology for Community and Environment (APACE)	7	Education Development Association (EDA)
8	Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad (APHEDA)	8	Every Home for Christ Ltd (EHC)
9	Australian Red Cross (ARC) Reporting 1 April	9	For Those Who Have Less- Action Aid Australia (FTWHL-AAA)
10	Australians Caring for Refugees (AUSTCARE)	10	International Needs Australia (INA)
11	Community Aid Abroad (CAA)	11	Interplast Australia (INTERPLAST)
12	CARE Australia (CARE)	12	Marist Mission Centre (MMC)
13	CARITAS Australia	13	Nusatengarra Association (NTA)
14	Christian Blind Mission International (Australia) (CBMI) Reporting 1 April	14	Oz Child: Children Australia (OZCHILD)
15	Christian Children's Fund of Australia (CCFA)	15	OzGREEN - Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (Aust) (OZGREEN)
16	The Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF)	16	PLAN International Australia (PLAN)
17	Family Planning Australia Inc (FPAI)	17	Quaker Service Australia (QSA)
18	International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)	18	Rotary Australian World Community Service (ROTARY)
19	The Leprosy Mission (TLM)	19	Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL)
20	MacFarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research (MBCMR)	20	Sudan Interior Mission Aid Fund (SIMAID)
21	Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)	21	Uniting Church in Australia Unity & International Mission (UCUIM)
22	National Council of Churches Australia (NCCA) Reporting 1 April		
23	Opportunity International Australia (OIA)		
24	Australian Volunteers International (AVI) (formerly known as Overseas Service Bureau - OSB)		
25	The Salvation Army (SA)		
26	Save the Children Fund Australia (SCFA)		
27	TEAR Australia (TEAR)		
28	UNICEF Australia (UNICEF)		
29	World Vision Australia (WVA) Reporting 15 December		
30	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)		
	30 Full accredited agencies		21 Base accredited agencies