



**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 49 October 2001

*This issue reports on highlights of the 98th CDC meeting held on 18 October 2001*

**ATTENDANCE AT CDC 98**

<b>NGO Representatives</b>	<b>AusAID Representatives</b>	<b>Observers</b>
Mike Crooke	Ellen Shipley (Chair)	Jo Karam (ACFOA)
Jo Thomson	Elizabeth Brouwer	David Worner (AusAID, Statistics)
Wendy Rose	Laurie McCulloch	Carolyn Nimmo (AusAID, NGOs)
Margaret Winn	John Munro	David Gower (AusAID, NGOs)
David Syme	Percy Stanley	Melinda Johnston (AusAID, NGOs)
Rhonda Chapman	Gregory Takats	

**Apologies**

John Deane

**Secretary**

Justin States (AusAID, NGOs)

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

The Acting Chair welcomed the CDC members and introduced observer Mr David Worner of AusAID's Statistical Services Section, who has a strong interest in learning more about the AusAID CDC system.

**AUSAID-NGO COOPERATION PROGRAM**

***AusAID-NGO Cooperation Projects considered for funding since CDC 96***

The CDC noted the report of the ANCP Appraisal for the September 2001 funding round. The following proposals were supported:

- 1 ABM**  
Tocu Can Domestic Water Systems Project, Philippines
- 2 EDA**  
Pilot Program: Access to Economic Development for Disadvantaged Indigenous Women - Bolivia
- 3 NTA**  
Village Development Initiatives, West Timor and Flores
- 4 QSA**  
Permaculture Training in Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia

**5 OZGREEN**

Oecusse Community Catchment Management and Capacity Building Project, East Timor

**6 SIL**

Vernacular Literacy for the Angor, Arapesh and Urim Language Groups in the Sepik Region of PNG.

**7. ABM**

Sanbay – Pagui Integrated Community Project, Philippines

**8. QSA**

Institutional Strengthening for St Jude Organic Farming Training Centre, Uganda (recommended for approval subject to clarification of farm ownership)

**9. SIL**

In-Service Course for STEP Literacy Graduates, PNG

**10. ABM**

TREES – Tropical Forest Regeneration for Environmental and Economic Stability, Philippines.

**11. IN**

Adidome Modular Training Program, Ghana/Upper Volta

**ANCP MANAGEMENT**

**Quality of Base Proposals**

It was pleasing to see that the standard of base proposals received for the September round was of a high level. It was pleasing to see that base panels were approving similar levels of projects over the past two years. Some Agencies that have received multiyear funding for a particular project did not appear to be aware of new participation requirements replacing previous draw down requirements (that agencies must submit at least two proposals and need to have at least one project approved every two years). Agencies who have not participated in recent rounds are strongly urged to contact AusAID (Melinda Johnston on 6206 4801) or ACFOA.

NGOs should note that AusAID writes to warn NGOs who are non-complying, or in danger of non-complying, and thereby losing their accreditation.

The CDC Chair confirmed that in ADPlans the sectoral focus should take priority, then geographical. AusAID is working with individual agencies over these issues.

**Administrative Overheads**

AusAID has used ACFOA's Members Information Forums (MIFs) to provide information to the general NGO community regarding the issue of Administrative Overheads. After consulting with ACFOA and members of the CDC, AusAID developed a budget format, defined administrative overhead inclusions and participated in the MIF information process.

AusAID has also developed an administrative overhead survey form to seek further feedback from the NGO community over this issue. A sample of six NGOs has been selected to complete a

“without prejudice” survey form. Responses are now coming in and any further changes will be advised to the NGO community prior to the February deadline for final survey responses.

### **Variation to the Base Agency Funding Ratio**

The CDC was advised that the implications of an increase in the funding ratio from 1 : 1 to a ratio of 2 : 1 are now being considered by AusAID. Initial indications are that the issue is somewhat complex and will require consideration by AusAID’s internal management before the proposal can be put to the next CDC.

### **CDC Member feedback on MIFs**

The CDC agreed that recent Member Information Forums were very successful and provided a useful mechanism for the exchange of information between the NGO community, ACFOA and AusAID. It was suggested that the MIFs offer an opportunity for NGOs to become increasingly informed and involved with current issues.

ACFOA also suggested that the MIFs are working well as a feedback mechanism and in some ways can be more effective than the AusAID/NGO annual consultation process. At present only ACFOA members are invited to the MIFs. The Chair agreed to discuss with ACFOA the issue of inviting accredited NGOs to attend the MIFs as at the moment they are a free service offered to ACFOA members only.

ACFOA advised that they had conducted a postal ballot for 3 new CDC members. The incumbents Wendy Rose, John Deane and Margaret Winn were re-elected unopposed.

## **ACCREDITATION**

### **AusAID Review Processes**

The number of proposed reviews has been reduced from 15 to 10 per year to ensure a manageable workload for AusAID and the CDC. This means some agencies will have slightly more than 5 years of accreditation, but no agency would have a shorter period. AusAID will write to agencies about their proposed review dates.

### **Accreditation Recommendations**

The following table summarises the CDC 98 accreditation recommendations approved by the AusAID delegate on 2 November 2001.

<b>CDC 98</b>	
The Archbishop of Sydney’s Overseas Relief and Aid Fund (ORAF)	Base Accreditation
PLAN International Australia	Full accreditation
Save the Children Australia (SCA)	Full accreditation
UNICEF Australia	Full accreditation

## **CDC Guidance for Discussion at the Accreditation Reviewers Workshop**

The CDC discussed a number of operational policy issues related to accreditation and will incorporate the changes in the NGO Package of Information (NGOPI) in due course.

### **ELECTRONIC NGOPI**

#### **An update**

Some delays have occurred in NGOPI updates. AusAID will follow up and expedite changes. AusAID is undertaking a second annual user satisfaction survey which is usual practice after a system has been in place for twelve months, and that the architecture of the system would be reviewed.

### **OTHER ISSUES**

#### **Update on QAG Process and NGO Quality Activities**

Elizabeth Brouwer, Director of AusAID's Performance Information and Assessment section, said that results of the recent QAG review of NGO projects will be available to her section next week for clearance and the final report is due by mid-November. Results will feed into project assessment criteria and possibly even accreditation criteria.

The ACFOA observer informed the CDC that the issue of quality is a regular agenda item for the ACFOA Development Practices Advisory Committee.

#### **Exchange Rate Fluctuations**

Peter Jensen, Director of AusAID's Finance and Budget section, spoke to the CDC and outlined how government departments are individually responsible for dealing with exchange rate fluctuations as part of their financial management. AusAID was therefore analysing its exposure to currency fluctuations and developing a comprehensive risk management strategy to look at the timing and currency of payments, possible hedging arrangements and paying in Australian dollars to manage the risks of fluctuations. A key point was that AusAID receives no supplementation for exchange rate fluctuations.

The policy remains the same for NGOs: they are responsible for managing their own risks and fluctuations. AusAID will write to NGOs outlining AusAID's responsibilities and position. AusAID will also provide information for a future ACFOA Member Information Forum.

#### **Dates for future CDC meetings**

The following dates were confirmed:	CDC 99	7 March 2002
	CDC 100	6 June 2002
	CDC 101	10 October 2002.

## **REMINDERS AND INFORMATION**

- Agencies should inform the NGO Section of any difficulties with the website by emailing [ngo\\_liaison@ausaid.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto: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 reminded that the interest earned must be directed only towards AusAID funded activities.

## **NGO Calendar**

### **November 2001**

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 13 | ACFOA Member Information Forum – Melbourne |
| 14 | ACFOA Member Information Forum – Canberra  |
| 15 | ACFOA Member Information Forum – Sydney    |

### **December 2001**

### **January 2002**

### **February 2002**

### **March 2002**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Deadline for RDE Sheets to be submitted to NGO Section of AusAID |
| 7 | CDC 99   |

## AUSAID ACCREDITATION STATUS OF NGOs

As at 12 November 2001

<b>FULL ACCREDITATION</b>		<b>BASE ACCREDITATION</b>	
1	Australian Baptist World Aid (ABWAid)		Anglican Board of Mission Australia (ABM)
2	Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA)		Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)
3	African Enterprise (AE)		Australian Cranio-Maxillo Facial Foundation (ACMFF)
4	Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific (AFAP)		Anglicans Cooperating in Overseas Relief and Development (AngliCORD)
5	Australian Legal Resources International (ALRI)		Archbishop of Sydney's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund
6	Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS)		ASSISI Aid Projects India (ASSISI)
7	Appropriate Technology for Community and Environment (APACE)		Credit Union Foundation Australia (CUFA)
8	Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad (APHEDA)		Education Development Association (EDA)
9	Australian Red Cross (ARC)		Every Home for Christ Ltd (EHC)
10	Australians Caring for Refugees (AUSTCARE)	1	For Those Who Have Less- Action Aid Australia (FTWHL-A)
11	Oxfam Australia ( <i>formerly known as Community Aid Abroad (CAA)</i> )	1	International Needs Australia (INA)
12	CARE Australia (CARE)	1	Interplast Australia (INTERPLAST)
13	CARITAS Australia	1	Marist Mission Centre (MMC)
14	Christian Blind Mission International (Australia) (CBMI)	1	Nusatengarra Association (NTA)
15	Christian Children's Fund of Australia (CCFA)	1	Oz Child: Children Australia (OZCHILD)
16	The Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF)	1	OzGREEN - Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (Aust) (OZGREEN)
17	Family Planning Australia Inc (FPAI)	1	Quaker Service Australia (QSA)
18	International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)	1	Rotary Australian World Community Service (ROTARY)
19	The Leprosy Mission (TLM)	1	Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL)
20	MacFarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research (MBCR)	2	Sudan Interior Mission Aid Fund (SIMAID)
21	Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)	2	Uniting Church Overseas Aid (UCOA)
22	National Council of Churches Australia (NCCA)		
23	Opportunity International Australia (OIA)		
24	Australian Volunteers International (AVI) ( <i>formerly known as Overseas Service Bureau - OSB</i> )		
25	PLAN International Australia (PLAN)		
26	The Salvation Army (SA)		
27	Save the Children Fund Australia (SCFA)		
28	TEAR Australia (TEAR)		
29	UNICEF Australia (UNICEF)		
30	World Vision Australia (WVA)		
31	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)		
	<b>31 Full accredited agencies</b>		<b>21 Base accredited agencies</b>