

Trevor Freestone.

16.1.2011

**The Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness Secretariat,
G.P.O. Box 887,
Canberra. A.C.T. 2601.**

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am concerned about the apparent effectiveness of the Australian Aid in Papua New Guinea. In 2008 I visited Watabung in the Eastern Highlands Province and was disturbed to find that living conditions in the villages had deteriorated.

How can you provide aid? This is a very difficult question and I understand that some of your past Aid programs have involved high Administration costs. This is something you have to look at.

I also believe that you have started a program whereby you send out teams into rural areas and other trouble spots to locate problems and areas that need aid. I truly believe this is a very good policy. If you list all the problems people are facing then you will be in a position to negotiate with the PNG government. The PNG government has to take responsibility for many of the problems and provide funding to correct any shortfalls.

This research will reveal many areas that desperately need someone's assistance. However it must be done by responsible, trusted people who can bypass the Wantok system.

As an Example Watabung needs a new police station fully equip with modern facilities. (When I was there they did not have a type writer for their court reports so I donated one) Similarly Asaro and Goroka Police stations were in dire need of repair. Police housing was pathetic. I know this is a PNG Government's responsibility, however Ausaid could help with the supply of the necessary office equipment. Policing is one of the most urgent priorities as law and order is stifling PNG. (I enclose a photo of the Watabung police station taken in 2008 which was built in the 1960's out of mud brick.)

At a village level there was no clean drinking water, nor any proper waste disposal system. This is a huge problem and needs investigating if major disease outbreaks are to be avoided.

The school was recently connected to the power supply and is now desperate to obtain computers for their students. Many schools are without computers however to keep abreast of the modern world computer literacy is essential.

Once you establish projects for Ausaid you should try to recruit volunteers to oversee projects; Church groups, or Australian Rotary Clubs, or even Australian volunteers. The foreign Affairs Minister has to take an extremely active role in pointing out to the PNG Government those areas you have found need their urgent attention.

I wish you luck in developing a new plan that will help to ensure PNG progresses into a much brighter future.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trevor Freestone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Trevor Freestone.