

Dr. Peter Graham

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The Chairperson,
Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness Secretariat,
GPO Box 887,
Canberra,
ACT 2601.

Dear Sir or Madam,

May I submit the following for consideration?

In July 2007 I was the ophthalmologist for a team from the Lion's Save Sight Foundation of Perth, visiting post-tsunami Banda Aceh.

The Eye department of the city's main hospital (R.S. Dr Zainoel Abidini) had been repaired and restocked by AusAID.

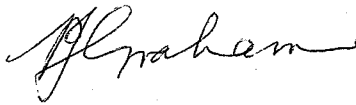
I was shown a room full of eye instruments worth hundreds of thousands of dollars (lasers, visual field machines etc) which were unknown and unworkable by the four staff ophthalmologists.

They had not been asked about their own perceived needs for restocking, and indeed were still lacking in some basic instruments for routine daily use.

I hope that AusAID can abolish the hand-outs of expensive equipment, unusable by the recipients and supplied without consultation or explanation. The custom is fostered by the system of "preferred" Australian providers, who obtain the most commission by supplying the most expensive equipment, as I have experienced also in the AusAID projects for the Bali Eye Hospital.

With thanks for your consideration,

Yours faithfully



P.J. Graham AM