

Dear Aid Review Panel

I would like to submit the following comment and recommendations for the current review of Australia aid effectiveness.

Australia's future aid program should be focused on achieving the following 10 objectives:

1. **Achieving the Millennium Development Goals** that are most lagging behind, and in the poorest countries in our region.
2. **Prioritising the most marginalised people**, as a result of their disability, HIV positive status, gender, ethnic minority, mental illness or other cause.
3. **Establishing AusAID as a separate department** (it is currently under Foreign Affairs & Trade), with a Cabinet-level Minister for International Development, focused primarily on good outcomes for the poor.
4. **Implementing the Paris and Accra agreements on aid effectiveness** to make aid more long term, aligned with country systems and needs, coordinated with all other donors, and accountable to beneficiaries.
5. **Empowering local communities** through effective consultation and community ownership over projects, employing local people instead of large Australian corporations to implement the projects.
6. **Reducing high-paid Western consultants** and expenditure on '[technical assistance](#)', which in 2009 consumed almost half of Australia's aid budget.
7. **Working through NGOs** by increasing the share of our aid delivered through NGOs to at least 10% of the aid budget.
8. **Improving the transparency and accountability** of the aid program by providing up-to-date information about all funded aid activities to all stakeholders.
9. **Investing in effective multilateral funds** like the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS.
10. **Engaging civil society** in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the aid program. This should include relevant groups in Australia, in each country and in the communities affected by Australia's aid.

Thanks you for considering this in your Review.

Paul Woods