

**Sails Ocean Sails (S.O.S)**  
**Life Saving Awareness Program**

Dear Chairman,

I would like to make the following submission.

I have been involved in working (part-time) in delivering Aid to Papua New Guinea, Pacific and Indian Ocean Islands and the African Mainland – Commencing with providing professional assistance – as a land surveyor – then as being the Program and Operations Manager of an Aid Organization (Sails Ocean Sails – S.O.S.) which I commenced in 2005. S.O.S. collects yacht and boat sails from Sailing Clubs around Australia and sends them overseas or personally delivers them and give lectures to maritime students and fishermen about using sails; sailing techniques and discuss “Safety at Sea” issues.

Within Ausaid, there is currently no provision for Australia supplying used goods or equipment, with the Australian aid delivery system.

The monetary value of the used sails we re-cycle in each shipping container is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars – some sails have never been used and others are as tall as a seven storey building.

All sails, tackle, shackles, life-vests/jackets, maps, compasses, steel stays (wires), anchors, pulleys, cleats – are freely given by Australians and freely delivered by S.O.S.

These sails – made of Dacron, Mylar, Kevlar, etc are of very good quality and durability and are far superior to the hand-sown cotton sails used by fishermen in developing countries.

The advantages of using Australian sails are: –

1. They save lives when boat motors break-down or run-out of petrol.
2. Fishermen provide food and a whole (sea and land based) industry providing employment in docking, ice-making, delivery, dietary and supply, etc.
3. They show that Australians care for the individuals, families, villages and their nation.

4. They are environmentally friendly, do not pollute the atmosphere, provide a life-line for fishermen and villages when they cannot afford petrol to run their boats and have a life-time life expectancy.
5. They build good relationships with people who are often by-passed with mainstream aid supply.
6. They establish self-respect with people who have very little money – but who strive for dignity and productiveness.

I ask the review committee, if they could please consider the following:

1. Introducing a category containing a list of acceptable ‘used goods/equipment’ into the Ausaid Program.
2. Providing assistance for this new category of Aid with:
  - a. Meeting costs of transporting these goods/equipment to overseas countries.
  - b. Meeting costs of a volunteer to travel to the point of destination in order to provide advice to recipients on using these goods/equipment.
  - c. Incorporating this new Aid category into the mainstream aid supply with respect to the geographical coastal regions of receiving nations.

I am happy to appear before the committee if required.

Hoping you may be favourable to the above ideas.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Gately

Program and Operations Manager