2018 Australian Aid Stakeholder Survey

Thank you to Sachini Muller and Stephen Howes

Thank you to everyone who took part!
Introducing the Stakeholder Survey

Assessment of aid program both:
(1) High level
(2) Detailed attributes

Phase 1 – senior execs
Phase 2 – broader community

Perception based

2013, 2015 & 2018 – intertemporal comparison
What did we find in 2018?

“There’s so much evidence, we should put some aside for a different case.”
The development focus of Australian aid has stayed down
Overall aid program effectiveness improved, but not to 2013 levels
Individual aid program attributes have all improved from 2015 to 2018
Majority of attributes have improved from 2013 to 2018
Majority of attributes have improved since days of AusAID – what is going on?

“Well, this is troubling.”
The conundrum:

"And this is my cousin Dave, who handles the conventional wisdom."
The conundrum explained (part 1) – staff continuity and decision making

Aid Program – Quick Decision Making Over Time

- Great strength
- Moderate strength
- Neither
- Moderate weakness
- Great weakness

Year: 2013, 2015, 2018
“The ANCP Team are wonderful to work with and deserve a lot of credit for maintaining their positive can-do attitude and patience dealing with NGOs! Thank you very much!!”
Most attributes appraised more positively in 2018 than 2013 because:

1. Both NGOs and Contractors experienced improvements in some poorly performing areas.

2. ANCP
The puzzle: majority of attributes improved since AusAID, but overall effectiveness down. What?
The puzzle answered (part 1): other issues impeding overall effectiveness

Development Focus of Australian Aid
The puzzle answered (part 2): new ideas, new problems

Aid for trade

Facilities

The innovation agenda
Where does that leave us?

Aid better in 2018 than in 2015

Improvements in important attributes, but room for more.

Some areas of high performance (ANCP).

Aid impeded by the national interest.

Also impeded by certain ‘bright’ new ideas.

“Say what you will about 2018, I haven’t been kept awake by the same fear twice.”
What is to be done?

Continue progress on staff stability & procedural efficiency.

Revise & re-submit for facilities, aid for trade & innovation.

Focus on development.

People in favour of progressive, effective aid policy need to find a (louder) voice.
Thank you

Read the blog tomorrow: www.devpolicy.org

Download the report and underlying data: https://devpolicy.crawford.anu.edu.au/aid-stakeholder-survey/2018
Appendix slides
Phase 1 v Phase 2
NGO and Contractor change over time
ANCP v Non-ANCP NGOs

2018 ANCP NGOs versus Non-ANCP NGOs (Phase 1)

- Monitoring
- Focus on results
- Partnerships
- Performance mgt reporting
- Cms & cmty engagement
- Quick decision making
- Funding predictability
- Facilities (general)
DFAT Funding Share from ANCP and attribute assessments
There is a clear relationship between:
Views on aid’s development focus and views on aid effectiveness

There is no real relationship between:
NGOs’ funding changes and their views on effectiveness

There is only a weak relationship between:
NGOs’ funding changes and their views on effectiveness change

There is no relationship between:
Desired aid volume and views on aid effectiveness.