

Explanation of survey

This pdf contains the questions asked in the 2018 Australian Aid Stakeholder Survey.

Not all respondents were asked all of the questions – some questions were asked based on responses to previous questions (e.g. Q7 was only asked if the response to Q6 was “no”).

SurveyGizmo – an online survey software tool – was used to conduct the survey. This allowed us to show respondents only the questions they needed to answer, so in the above example, if a respondent answered “yes” to Q6, they did not even see Q7 and were automatically taken to Q8.

We used A/B testing in this survey to test for wording effects associated with changed wording in two groups of important questions for which the wording had changed since the 2015 iteration of the survey. (The questions involved were questions 12-14 and 16-19.) A/B testing meant that some questions had two versions, and approximately half of the respondents received each version. One example of this is Q16 in which half of respondents were asked “how would you rate the effectiveness of the Australian aid program?” and half were asked “how would you rate the effectiveness of the Australian aid program in promoting development in developing countries?” respectively. We analysed whether the change in wording affected the responses to the question. This analysis is explained in detail in Appendix 2 of the 2018 Stakeholder Survey report.

2018 Australian Aid Stakeholder Survey

Section 1: About the respondent

1. Sex

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Don't want to answer

2. Age (in years)

3. Where do you mainly live?

- ☐ Australia
- ☐ Other - please specify

4. How would you rate your level of knowledge of the aid program as a whole?

- ☐ Very strong
- ☐ Strong
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Weak
- ☐ Very weak

5. How long have you been involved in the field of international development?

- ☐ Less than 6 months
- ☐ 6 months to a year
- ☐ 1-2 years
- ☐ 2-5 years
- ☐ 5-10 years
- ☐ 10-15 years
- ☐ 15-20 years
- ☐ 20+ years

6. Do you currently work or volunteer in a role related to international development? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

7. Please describe your involvement with international development (i.e. former aid worker, development studies student, etc.). *

8. From the list below, which one best describes where you work?

- ☐ Academia (university or think tank)
- ☐ Australian development NGO
- ☐ Other NGO (local or international)
- ☐ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- ☐ Other Australian government (national, state or local)
- ☐ Developing country government (national, provincial or local)
- ☐ Multilateral or regional intergovernmental organisation
- ☐ Aid contracting company
- ☐ Independent consultant
- ☐ Other - please specify

9. How would you describe your seniority in your current organisation?

- ☐ Highest level (e.g. CEO or similar)
- ☐ Senior management level
- ☐ Middle management level
- ☐ Mid-career non-management level
- ☐ Entry or early-career level

10. How long have you worked or volunteered at your current organisation?

- ☐ Less than 6 months
- ☐ 6 months to a year
- ☐ 1-2 years
- ☐ 2-5 years
- ☐ 5-10 years
- ☐ 10-15 years
- ☐ 15-20 years
- ☐ 20+ years

Section 2: Questions about the Australian Government Aid Program (A/B Testing used)

11. (Question version A) Adding to 100, what weight do you think the following objectives actually have in guiding the work of the Australian aid program?

Reducing poverty

Promoting Australia's strategic interests

Promoting Australia's commercial interests

0 out of 100% Total

12. **(Question version B)** Adding to 100, what weight do you think the following objectives actually have in guiding the work of the Australian aid program?

Promoting development in developing countries

Promoting Australia's direct strategic interests

Promoting Australia's commercial interests

0 out of 100% Total

13. **(Question version A)** Adding to 100, what weight do you think the following objectives should have in guiding the work of the Australian aid program?

Reducing poverty

Promoting Australia's strategic interests

Promoting Australia's commercial interests

0 out of 100% Total

14. **(Question version B)** Adding to 100, what weight do you think the following objectives should have in guiding the work of the Australian aid program?

Promoting development in developing countries

Promoting Australia's direct strategic interests

Promoting Australia's commercial interests

0 out of 100% Total

15. If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here.

Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.

2B. Aid effectiveness (A/B Testing used)

16. **(Question version A)** How would you rate the effectiveness of the Australian aid program?

Very effective

Effective

Neither effective nor ineffective

Ineffective

Very ineffective

Don't know

17. **(Question version B)** How would you rate the effectiveness of the Australian aid program in promoting development in developing countries?

☐ Very effective

☐ Effective

☐ Neither effective nor ineffective

☐ Ineffective

☐ Very ineffective

☐ Don't know

18. **(Question version A)** Over the last three years (since the last Australian aid stakeholder survey was run in 2015), has the effectiveness of the Australian aid program improved or declined?

- ☐ Improved significantly
- ☐ Improved moderately
- ☐ Stayed the same
- ☐ Declined moderately
- ☐ Declined significantly
- ☐ Don't know

19. **(Question version B)** Over the last three years (since the last Australian aid stakeholder survey was run in 2015), has the effectiveness of the Australian aid program in promoting development in developing countries improved or declined?

- ☐ Improved significantly
- ☐ Improved moderately
- ☐ Stayed the same
- ☐ Declined moderately
- ☐ Declined significantly
- ☐ Don't know

20. If you would like to expand on your answers to the last two questions, please do so here.

22. If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here.

Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.

2C. Focus of the aid program

23. Five key sectors are listed below. Please indicate the extent to which you believe the right emphasis is being placed upon each area.

	Too much weight	The right weight	Too little weight	Don't know
Economic development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Governance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Humanitarian emergencies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The percentages below refer to the percentage of country or region allocable ODA allocated to each region in 2016-17.

0 out of 100% Total

[illegible]

26. In recent years the aid program has placed an emphasis on using facilities in the management of Australian aid. What would you say that the effect of this on the quality of Australian aid has been?

By 'facilities' we mean the grouping together and management of a number of smaller aid projects, perhaps implemented by a range of partners, by a single firm under contract to the Australian Government.

- ☐ Strongly positive
- ☐ Positive
- ☐ No effect
- ☐ Negative
- ☐ Strongly negative
- ☐ Don't know

27. If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here.

Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.

28. The following attributes are among those used in the 2013 baseline survey and noted by the [2011 Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness](#) as being particularly important for the quality of the Australian aid program. With the reintegration of AusAID, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is now responsible for managing Australia's government aid program. Answers to this question should be given on the basis of your overall views about DFAT's performance in managing Australian aid.

Please indicate the extent to which you believe DFAT, in its management of the aid program, possesses each of the attributes listed, using the following scale:

[illegible]

29. You have indicated that you believe DFAT's attitude to risk is a weakness, is this because:

- ☐ DFAT takes too many risks
- ☐ DFAT is too risk-averse
- ☐ Don't know

30. A significant use of aid program funding is for the provision of specialist advisers to assist partner governments in policy planning and execution, and for building the capacity of local counterparts. Please indicate whether you consider the use of Australian aid to fund advisers to be:

- ☐ Excessive
- ☐ At about the right level
- ☐ Insufficient
- ☐ Don't know

31. What has been the impact of the merger of AusAID and DFAT on the effectiveness of staff primarily engaged in the Australian aid program?

- ☐ Greatly improved
- ☐ Improved
- ☐ Stayed the same
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Declined greatly
- ☐ Don't know

32. If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here.

Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.

2E. Political management

33. How effective do you think the following politicians were in managing Australia's aid program up until 25th August this year?

	Very effective	Effective	Neither effective nor ineffective	Ineffective	Very ineffective	Don't know
Australia's Foreign Minister (Julie Bishop)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Australia's Minister for International Development and the Pacific (Concetta Fierravanti-Wells)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

34. If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here.

Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.

Section 3: Questions arising from your direct engagement with the aid program

35. Are you involved in the management or implementation of an activity or activities which are at least in part funded by the Australian aid program, either as an individual or through the organisation for which you work? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Section 3A

36. Is there a DFAT employee designated as manager/facilitator/contact point ('manager' for short) for the aid program-funded work you and your organisation conduct? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

37. How long has the current 'manager' been in their current position?

- ☐ Less than 6 months
- ☐ 6 months to a year
- ☐ 1-2 years
- ☐ 2-5 years
- ☐ 5+ years
- ☐ Don't know

38. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the 'manager' appointed to your project/your organisation's aid program-funded work:

[illegible]

39. To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Funding from DFAT for my organisation's aid program-funded work is predictable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DFAT usually makes timely decisions about the aid program-funded work that my organisation undertakes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DFAT has been proactive and clear in communications associated with the aid program-funded work that my organisation undertakes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DFAT does not micromanage the aid program-funded work that my organisation undertakes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

40. Would you say that the transaction costs of dealing with DFAT are:

- ☐ Very high
- ☐ High
- ☐ Medium
- ☐ Low
- ☐ Very low
- ☐ Don't know

41. If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here.

Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.

Section 3B

42. Does your organisation run projects that are funded or managed through a facility (that is not your own organisation)?

*If your organisation runs a facility or you work for one, please answer 'no'. **

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

43. What would you say the effect of the facility has been on the functioning of your project(s)?

- ☐ Significantly improved
- ☐ Improved
- ☐ No effect
- ☐ Impeded
- ☐ Significantly impeded
- ☐ Don't know

44. What impact has funding or managing your project(s) through a facility had on transaction costs?

- ☐ Significantly reduced
- ☐ Reduced
- ☐ No effect
- ☐ Increased
- ☐ Significantly increased
- ☐ Don't know

45. If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here.

Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.

Section 4: Questions about the volume of aid

46. What percentage of GNI (gross national income) do you think the aid budget will be three years from now if:

(Choose the value by moving the slider; if you are unsure or prefer not to answer, please click 'don't know'.)

0.13% or less

0.23%

0.33% or more

The
Coalition
is re-
elected in
the next
election?

☐ Don't
know

Labour is
elected in
the next
election?

☐ Don't
know

47. What percentage of GNI (gross national income) do you think the aid budget should be three years from now?

(Choose the value by moving the slider; if you are unsure or prefer not to answer, please click 'don't know'.)

0.13% or
less

0.42%

0.71% or
more

☐ Don't know

48. If you would like to expand on any of your answers in this subsection, please do so here.

Please indicate which question you are referring to in your response.