

Development Policy Centre Progress Report

January – June 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- We held the third Australasian Aid Conference in conjunction with the Asia Foundation, which was the biggest ever, attracting some 500 attendees.
- In January, we launched the Australian Aid Tracker website (devpolicy.org/aidtracker), which attracted positive feedback and media coverage.
- We launched the results and report of the 2015 Australian Aid Stakeholder Survey at the aid conference, and it received significant attention. In March, the 2015 New Zealand Stakeholder Survey was launched at an event in Wellington.
- We launched the expanded version of our partnership with the University of Papua New Guinea, though we had to reorient activities due to unrest on the campus.
- The centre was awarded new funding from DFAT, for two years, to research state and societal responses to corruption in PNG. The project will see us collaborate with the University of Birmingham's Developmental Leadership Program (DLP) to carry out an innovative experiment, integrity mapping, and a survey.
- Femili PNG's Operations Manager, Denga Ilave, visited Australia for a four-city tour to talk about their work with survivors of family and sexual violence. The trip was highly successful, as Denga spoke at several events, did many media interviews and attended many meetings with key stakeholders.
- In March, the fourth Mitchell Oration took place, with the head of the Global Fund, Mark Dybul, as the speaker. The event was livestreamed, and attracted a range of VIP attendees.
- The launch of the Mitchell Global Humanitarian Award took place at the Mitchell Oration, and the first of the aid profiles series was completed. The first award will be announced in early 2017.
- We held our fourth annual aid budget breakfast the morning after the Federal Budget in May, which was well-attended and watched around the region via livestream. We were able to update the Australian Aid Tracker on the night of the budget, as well as the Devpolicy Blog, again providing the fastest and most comprehensive analysis of the impact of the budget on Australian aid.

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OUTREACH

Media

Media interest in the centre’s work has remained high. Particular topics of research interest have included the Australian aid budget, the PNG economy and politics, aid to PNG, gender violence in PNG, the Australian Aid Tracker launch and the launch of the Australian and New Zealand Aid Stakeholder Surveys, and the proposed ‘backpacker tax’ and its potential impact on the Seasonal Worker Program.

Members of the Devpolicy team were interviewed by or had analysis covered by: *Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, Canberra Times, Channel News Asia, Financial Times, The Guardian, Huffington Post, ABC The World Today, Radio National Breakfast, SBS World News, ABC News 24, The World, Radio Australia’s Pacific Beat, Australian Associated Press, Radio New Zealand, PNG Post Courier, The National* and more.

A number of opinion pieces by Devpolicy authors were published, including:

- [ANU survey finds Australian overseas aid now seen to be less effective](#), Terence Wood, Camilla Burkot and Stephen Howes, *Canberra Times*, 10 February 2016 (op-ed)
- [The world needs a humanitarian fund to assist long-term crises](#), Robin Davies, *The Guardian*, 13 April 2016 (op-ed)
- [There is hope for PNG and Australia's shared domestic violence challenge](#), Denga Ilave (Femili PNG), *ABC The Drum*, 20 May 2016 (op-ed)
- [Savage budget cuts pull Australia down in foreign aid rankings](#), Robin Davies, *The Conversation*, 4 May 2016
- [The ‘Moral Crisis’ Treasurer Scott Morrison Railed Against In Opposition And Abandoned In Government](#), Matthew Dornan, *New Matilda*, 25 May 2016 (op-ed)

For a full list of media mentions, see [Appendix A](#).

Devpolicy Blog

Readership on the Devpolicy Blog has remained at high levels. The blog currently attracts on average 26,000 user sessions a month, and had 247,000 pageviews in the first half of the year. As is usual,

budget time in May provided a peak, with more than 30,000 that month. Blog material is being widely reshared, and republished or cited in regional media (i.e. Vanuatu Daily Post, Islands Business, The National, Post Courier), on other blogs (i.e. PNG Attitude), and in the Australian media.

Popular issues on the blog this year have been the World Humanitarian Summit, the PNG economy, the Australian aid budget, the Sustainable Development Goals and the PNG drought.

Top 10 blogs January- June (by traffic)

[Let's abolish the fire brigade – why Médecins Sans Frontières isn't at the World Humanitarian Summit](#) by Paul McPhun

[The ongoing impact of the El Niño drought and frosts in Papua New Guinea](#) by Michael Bourke, Bryant Allen and Michael Lowe

[Scaled down. The last of the aid cuts?](#) By Stephen Howes

[Can developing countries afford the SDGs?](#) By Chris Hoy

[PNG's frightening Final Budget Outcome](#) by Paul Flanagan

[PNG's fiscal woes: where has all the money gone?](#) By Stephen Howes

[Introducing the Australian Aid Tracker](#) by Ashlee Betteridge

[When free education isn't free: creeping corruption in PNG education](#) by Rebecca Robinson

[Under pressure: calls on Australia's 2016 aid budget](#) by Robin Davies

[What's culture got to do with it? Causes of intimate partner violence](#) by Anouk Ride

Social media

Social media engagement has continued to remain strong, with a high level of interaction and continued growth in followers, and strong engagement on the Australasian Aid Conference and Aid Budget Breakfast hashtags during those events. Twitter followers increased to 6,685 (up by 545 from the start of the year) and Facebook page likes were up to 3,474 (up by 604). The daily blog email and newsletter lists also continued to grow. The fortnightly newsletter list grew to 6,195 subscribers and the daily email list has now exceeded 2750 subscribers. Podcasts on our Soundcloud channel had more than 10,000 plays between January and June this year.

Meetings, talks, training, assignments

Stephen Howes

- Addressed the ANU Council as an invited showcase of policy impact
- Talked at their invitation to DFAT Development Policy Division about new ideas in aid and our research
- Met at various times with senior DFAT and Ministerial officials

Robin Davies

- Presented on Australian aid to Indonesia and chaired a panel session on climate change and global public goods at the Australian Aid Conference. February.

- Appointed as a member of the External Advisory Committee for the Australian Council for International Development's future Australian development agenda process, [Ahead of the Curve](#). March, ongoing.
- Met with staff of the development contracting firm Dalberg to discuss the design of a large youth employment challenge fund, to be managed by the African Development Bank. March.
- Provided peer review comments on an Overseas Development Institute Working Paper on the role of central government agencies in policy coherence for development. March.
- Had exchanges with OECD and UN officials in relation to my proposal for a global humanitarian fund, with the result that the proposal was forwarded to the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.
- Met with staff of two firms from the consortium contracted to design and manage Australia's SEED Pacific enterprise challenge fund, and subsequently provided written comments on the fund's concept design. April.
- Discussed with staff of the OECD's Development Cooperation Directorate my draft policy brief analysing 2014 global aid flows. April.
- Participated by invitation in the second Overseas Development Institute conference on Future Development Agencies, London. April.
- Engaged extensively with co-editors at the University of Canberra and the UK-based Overseas Development Institute, and with contributing authors, in relation to our forthcoming special issue of the journal *Development Policy Review*, on the topic of consumer perspectives on development assistance. January to June.
- Organised for a writer, Laura Jean McKay, to visit Jakarta for interviews with the Australian embassy and staff of the Muslim social organisation Aisyiyah, as part of Devpolicy's aid profiles project. March to June.
- Provided extensive comments on all chapters of Jack Corbett's draft book on the history of Australian aid administration. May and June.
- Conducted and published an interview with Michael Flynn, Executive Director of the Global Detention Project, Geneva, on the topic of Australia's immigration detention policies in a global context. June.
- Provided informal, written advice to the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate on options for revising guidelines for the conduct of OECD Development Assistance Committee peer reviews of OECD donors' aid programs. June.
- Had several exchanges with Europe-based experts in aid data transparency as a result of the publication of my blog post, 'Getting the data out of the darkness', and agreed to consult further with them in advocating for the creation of an adequate global IATI portal. June.

Matthew Dornan

- Led research on road management in PNG in partnership with Dr Carmen Voigt-Graf and colleagues at the National Research Institute in PNG. This has included research in four provinces in the first half of 2016. The work will be published in the next 6-12 months.
- Published an article on earmarking of revenue for road management in PNG with Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies
- Organised the Pacific Update conference, held at the University of the South Pacific on 18-19 July, together with USP, ADB and ADBI.
- Presented on road management and decentralisation at the Pacific Update conference.

- Co-authored a paper on the allocation of climate change to Small Island Developing States, presented by Stacy-ann Robinson at the Pacific Update conference.
- Edited a compilation of articles on the Pacific, *Pacific Stories*, with Tess Newton Cain
- Presented research on aid to the Pacific as part of an ADB-sponsored workshop held at the East West Center in April.
- Presented on the development challenges in the Pacific as part of the Asia-Pacific Week conference at ANU in June.
- Presented a paper on climate change adaptation funding in Small Island Developing States at the Australasian aid conference in February.
- Met with the Norwegian Ambassador to Australia, Unni Kløvstad, and Special Adviser to the Norwegian Government, Paul Larsen to discuss aid to the Pacific and possible areas for engagement by Norway.
- Chaired a roundtable with PNG's UN Resident Coordinator Roy Triveda and colleagues from across ANU.
- Matthew and Terence discussed economic developments in the Pacific and PNG with the Office of National Assessments.
- Matthew and Stephen met the Director General of the ADB's Pacific Department, Xianbin Yao, and the newly appointed head of ADB's Sydney office, Emma Xiaoqin Fan.
- Presented on donor conditionality and policy reform at the Pacific Islands Political Studies Association conference in Niue in July.
- Met with Sabine Fetta, Regional Adviser for Multilateral Affairs, International Committee of the Red Cross and Natalya Wells, Policy and Political Affairs Officer, ICRC to discuss engagement with regional organisations in the Pacific in the area of disaster response.
- Discussed research on the Pacific with colleagues at Japan's Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO).
- Interviewed by a range of media outlets, including the ABC 7pm News, ABC Radio, Radio New Zealand, China People's Daily, SciDev.
- Participated in a panel on strategic partner development between ANU and USP
- Became the primary supervisor of PhD candidate Edwina Fingleton-Smith, who is researching gender aspects of energy access in Kenya.
- Together with Stephen Howes, Richard Curtain and Jesse Doyle, prepared an ANU-World Bank publication on labour mobility in the Pacific.
- Published on developments in the energy sector of Small Island Developing States in the international journal, *Energy Policy*.

Grant Walton

- Began analysing Fiji Independent Commission against Corruption data with a consortium of researchers from University of Birmingham, Trinity College Dublin, University of Exeter. Ongoing.
- Reappointed as ANU University House Early Career Academic Fellow. January.
- Presented on education funding and the SDGs at the Australian Aid Conference with Anthony Swan; February
- Contributed to a roundtable meeting with colleagues from SSGM and the Lowy Institute, February
- Continued to facilitate the University House academic reading group on a monthly basis.

- Met with Charles Tapp, Manager for Partnership and External Relations, Jean-Marc Bernard, Deputy Chief Technical Officer, Tariq Khan, leader of GPE work in PNG and April Golden, donor relations officer, from the Global Partnership for Education. Discussed education policy in PNG and the Pacific. March.
- Received AU\$640,000 to conduct research on corruption and anti-corruption in PNG with University of Birmingham. Chief Investigator. April.
- Began a collaborative partnership with a consortium of researchers interested education policy across the Pacific. Includes members from ACER, EQAP, University of South Pacific. March.
- Met with Burnett Institute on research into health systems in PNG. March.
- Met with Roy Trivedy, UNDP PNG Representative. Discussed development challenges in PNG. March.
- Met Gregoire Nimbtk, PhD scholar, to discuss approaches to researching corruption in Vanuatu. April.
- Conducted training at UPNG on research methods and approaches for Public Expenditure Case Studies in PNG project. April.
- Presented at the UPNG seminar series on education policy and the tuition fee free policy in PNG. April.
- Met with Dr Dosym Satpayev, Kazakh activist and corruption commentator. Exchanged ideas about anti-corruption activism. April.
- Met with Bridi Rice, PhD Scholar to discuss researching corruption in PNG. April.
- Met with researcher Amanda Watson, to discuss potentially expanding her work on phones against corruption in PNG. May.
- Participated in DFAT review of the Developmental Leadership Program. May.
- Transnational Research Institute on Corruption planning meeting. May.
- Conducted fieldwork with UPNG partners in Gulf and East New Britain provinces: May and June.
- Presented on the Sustainable Development Goals and education funding in PNG (prepared with Anthony Swan) at the Institute of Australian Geographers in Adelaide. June.

Terence Wood

- Co-facilitated workshop on 'Creating a Healthy Domestic Political Environment for Aid' (one day workshop with Australian NGOs and campaigners). April.
- Met with the Office of National Assessment to discuss future Pacific development prospects. April.
- Met (lunch) with senior DFAT officials to discuss future possibilities for Australian ODA. June.
- Met with the Honourable Mark Mitchell, member of New Zealand Parliament. March.
- Met with the Honourable Kennedy Graham, member of New Zealand Parliament. March.
- Met with the Honourable David Shearer, member of New Zealand Parliament. March.
- Met with the Honourable Megan Woods, member of New Zealand Parliament. March.
- Developed a VBA application in Excel that was used in the compilation of data for the ACFID statistical summary.
- What do Australians think about aid?' - presentation at Australasian aid conference – February (with Camilla Burkot).
- The Australian Aid Stakeholder Survey - Keynote address at Australasian aid conference. February.
- Panel on Australian Aid Stakeholder Survey (participant on panel) – February.

- Politics and elections in Solomon Islands - Skype presentation to Oxfam New Zealand. February.
- New Zealand Aid Stakeholder Survey Launch (School of Government, Victoria University). March.
- New Zealand Aid Stakeholder Survey - presentation to NGOs (Council for International Development) – April.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (presentation to Bell School Masters of Diplomacy Course) – April.
- How Elections are Won in Solomon Islands (presentation to CDI event on Women Candidates in the Pacific) – June.

Anthony Swan

- Delivered an Arndt-Corden trade and development seminar presentation on innovation, trade and multinational production. June.

Carmen Voigt-Graf

- Presented on “Opportunities for Pacific Islanders in PNG’s construction industry”, Pacific Island Labour Sending Countries (PAILS) Forum, Port Vila, Vanuatu, 19-21 April.
- Presented with Sophia Kagen on “Migration and Labour Mobility from Kiribati” at a workshop on new research on Pacific labour mobility, ANU, Canberra, 2 June.
- Presented on “Labour mobility between Pacific Island countries”, Australasian Aid Conference, ANU, February.
- Presented on “Papua New Guinea Labour Market Assessment: Discussion of draft report”, ILO workshop, Grand Papua Hotel, Port Moresby, 18 March.

Ashlee Betteridge

- Spoke on a panel at Asia Pacific Week 2016 on digital disruption. June.
- Spoke on a Bell School panel (part of the Horizons series) on “From big data to big reach: the future of research”. Early July.
- Carried out a number of media interviews on the launch of the Australian Aid Tracker. January.
- Co-organised blogging workshop for PNG students at ANU with Michelle Rooney and Camilla Burkot.

Camilla Burkot

- With Terence Wood and Jo Spratt, met with four New Zealand MPs and a group of NZ NGO representatives to discuss the findings of the 2015 New Zealand aid stakeholder survey (29-31 Mar 2016)
- With Ashlee Betteridge and Michelle Rooney, facilitated a workshop for PNG and Pacific students on writing blogs (7 April 2016)
- With Stephen Howes and Terence Wood, participated in a roundtable with senior DFAT staff on the findings of the 2015 Australian aid stakeholder survey (21 April 2016)
- Chaired the 2016 Aid Budget Breakfast (4 May 2016)
- Invited to speak on aid effectiveness at an Oaktree Foundation event to engage university students in development advocacy, hosted by the Embassy of Timor-Leste (16 May 2016)
- Moderated a panel on development in the Pacific region at ANU Asia Pacific Week (27 June 2016)

Staff working on the UPNG project

- See separate ANU-UPNG partnership report.

Events

2016 Australasian Aid Conference

10-11 February 2016

This year's Australasian Aid Conference, once again held at ANU in conjunction with the Asia Foundation, was the largest ever, with nearly 500 attendees, 80 papers and 25 parallel sessions, two plenaries and three keynotes. We hosted a large range of Australian and international speakers across a broad range of topics.

Plenaries and keynotes included:

- Keynote by DFAT Secretary Peter Varghese
- Kitty van der Heijden's keynote "Forging a new development future"
- Panel on the SDGs in Asia
- The launch of the 2015 Australian aid stakeholder survey
- Panel on perspectives on the Paris climate change agreement
- Former MP Bob McMullan's dinner speech on advocating for Australian aid

Full details of the 2016 conference are available [on our website](#).

Afghanistan in 2015: a survey of the Afghan people

12 February 2016

Speakers: Gordon Hein, Timor Sharan, and Zack Warren, The Asia Foundation; Professor William Maley, Bell School, ANU; and Professor Stephen Howes, Development Policy Centre, Crawford School, ANU.

Conducted across the country's 34 provinces, The Asia Foundation's series of annual surveys in Afghanistan provides an unmatched barometer of Afghan public opinion over time. Taken together, the surveys are a resource for policymakers in government, the international community and the broader Afghan public as they seek to navigate a difficult landscape toward a more peaceful and prosperous future for Afghanistan and the region.

The 2016 Harold Mitchell Development Policy Lecture - Exciting, challenging, frightening times: global health, development and the stuff of innovation

29 February 2016

Speaker: Dr Mark Dybul, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Pacific regionalism and higher education

8 March 2016

Speaker: Professor Rajesh Chandra, Vice-Chancellor, The University of the South Pacific.

In this talk, Professor Rajesh Chandra discussed how the University engages within the broader regional framework and how it serves the Pacific through higher education, research, and regional integration joint-efforts with other regional agencies. Professor Chandra also discussed the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism and how USP is engaged in its implementation.

Public Private Partnerships in infrastructure: the Private Infrastructure Development Group
9 March 2016

Speaker: Mr Allard Nooy, CEO, InfraCo Asia Development.

In this presentation, Allard highlighted the role of PPPs in infrastructure in developing countries and discussed the benefits and challenges of PPPs in infrastructure development, Australia's involvement in the sector, and what the future looks like for PPPs in our region.

The cost of conflict: five years of the Syria crisis

15 March 2016

Speakers: Sahar Yassin, Humanitarian Advocacy Lead, World Vision Jordan; Emma Wanchap, Acting Manager of Policy and Government Relations, World Vision Australia; Kevin Boreham, Lecturer, ANU College of Law; Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre at Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU.

Panellists from The Australian National University and World Vision's Jordan and Melbourne offices discussed the findings of the *The Cost of Conflict for Children: Five Years of the Syria Crisis* report, field perspectives and their implications for international law, policy and the operations of humanitarian organisations responding to this global crisis.

Book launch - Playing the game: the memoirs of Sir Julius Chan

17 March 2016

Speakers: The Hon Sir Julius Chan MP, GCL GCMG KBE CBE, Governor, New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea; His Excellency Mr Charles Lepani, Papua New Guinea's High Commissioner to Australia; Mr Bill Farmer AO, Former Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea.

Born on a remote island to a migrant Chinese father and an indigenous mother, Sir Julius Chan overcame poverty, discrimination and family tragedy to become one of Papua New Guinea's longest-serving and most influential politicians.

His 50-year career, including two terms as Prime Minister, spans a crucial period of the country's history, particularly its coming of age from an Australian colony to a leading democratic nation in the South Pacific.

Playing the Game is an important autobiography by one of most prominent and influential founding fathers of modern Papua New Guinea.

Australian aid evaluations: performance of Australian aid and Australia Awards scholarships

20 April 2016

Speakers: Mr Jim Adams, Chair of the Independent Evaluation Committee, DFAT; Professor Stephen Howes, Development Policy Centre; Dr Rose Amazan, University of New England; and representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

This event focused on the new annual report on Australian aid *2014-15 Performance of Australian Aid* report and the recent Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT) Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) report *Building Women's Leadership: the contribution of Australia Awards Scholarships*.

The Performance of Australian Aid report is the government's own annual report card on the aid program. The other report evaluates Australian aid-funded scholarships from a gender perspective. This forum was the latest in a regular series built around ODE evaluations.

2016 aid budget breakfast

4 May 2016

Speakers: Stephen Howes, Director, Development Policy Centre, Crawford School, ANU; Jacqui De Lacy General Manager, Global Strategy, Abt JTA; and Anthony Swan, Research Fellow, Development Policy Centre.

Our fourth annual aid budget breakfast discussed the implications of the 2016 Federal Budget on Australian aid.

University reform in Papua New Guinea: the Unitech experience

18 May 2016

Speaker: Dr Albert Schram, Vice-Chancellor of Papua New Guinea's University of Technology.

Despite its age, the PNG university system is not yet mature. The challenges regarding the quantity and reliability of its funding, and recent legislative changes have not made things better. Efforts to create a solid governance structure, and develop the PNG University of Technology despite its financial constraints and difficult operating environment, contain many lessons for universities in developing countries. Internationalisation – engagement with Australian and other foreign universities – has been a critical key to unlocking Unitech's potential.

New approaches to tackling gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea

19 May 2016

Speakers: Anna Solomon, Secretary, Department for Community Development and Religion, PNG; Denga Ilave, Operations Manager for Femili PNG; Kymberley Kepore, Chief Executive Officer of the Oil Search Foundation.

Rates of family and sexual violence in Papua New Guinea are among the highest in the world, with some estimating that 70 per cent of women experience physical or sexual assault in their lifetime. Children are also significantly affected. While much is said about the levels of violence, less is heard about important work being done in all sectors of Papua New Guinea to address this pervasive issue. The new approaches being taken warrant broader attention both within and outside of Papua New Guinea.

At this event, the Development Policy Centre and the Lowy Institute brought together a panel of exceptional Papua New Guinean leaders from government, civil society and the private sector.

Towards an integrated labour migration strategy in our Pacific neighbourhood

2 June 2016

Speaker: Richard Bedford, Emeritus Professor, University of Waikato and President of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Are there prospects for further coherence in immigration policy that might contribute to alleviating pressures in the Pacific neighbourhood for greater access to opportunities for work and residence overseas over the next 30 years? The presentation addressed this question with particular reference to the atoll territories of the central Pacific.

Professor Brian Opeskin, Macquarie Law School, Macquarie University was the discussant for the lecture.

Going beyond 'politics matters' in international development

6 July 2016

Speaker: Samuel Hickey, Research Director, Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) Research Centre, and Professor of Politics and Development, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester.

That politics has a defining influence over development prospects is now broadly accepted amongst leading development theorists and agencies alike. However, there is less agreement over which forms of politics matter most, how these can be conceptualised and what kinds of policy implications flow from thinking politically about development. This seminar addressed these questions by presenting the key findings of a five-year comparative investigation into the politics of development in Africa and Asia. Employing a version of the 'political settlements' framework that has gained popularity amongst development agencies of late, this work examined how power and politics shape inclusive development in a range of policy domains, including economic growth, natural resource governance, social provisioning and women's empowerment.

PUBLICATIONS

Policy briefs

PB 11 Estimated impact of drought and frost on food supply in rural PNG in 2015

RM (Mike) Bourke, Bryant Allen and Michael Lowe, January 2016

Since April 2015, much of rural Papua New Guinea (PNG) has been severely impacted by a severe drought and, at a number of very high altitude locations above 2200 m altitude, by repeated frosts. The El Niño drought has had a major impact on water supply in many parts of PNG, with negative impacts on school operations, women's labour and villagers' health. In many locations, subsistence food supply has been affected. This brief uses a wide variety of reports to assess the impact of the drought on food supply for rural villagers for the whole of PNG at the Local Level Government Area (LLGA) level.

» [view publication](#) [PDF, 932KB]

» [read blog](#)

PB 12 A global humanitarian fund: a policy proposal

Robin Davies, March 2016

It is anomalous that the world is equipped with no global humanitarian financing mechanism akin to existing global investment vehicles for tackling infectious diseases and climate change. A global humanitarian fund, properly constituted, could help meet the \$10 billion annual humanitarian financing shortfall, complementing crisis-specific mechanisms and directing most of its resources to protracted crises. This policy brief makes the case for such a fund.

» [view publication](#) [PDF, 1155KB]

PB 13 Aid's new contours: an exploration of global aid flows in 2014

Robin Davies, April 2016

The record global aid spending outcome in 2014 was a solid achievement for OECD countries, not much assisted by the inclusion of contested flows such as onshore refugee costs. However, half of OECD aid came from just three leading donors. Aid to poor countries fell in 2014, in part because the

share of aid attributed to specific countries is declining, but remained close to its five-year average. Measured non-OECD aid increased by more than half and total non-OECD aid might now be as high as \$30 billion per annum. Consequently, total aid available to developing countries increased by around 20% over the period 2013-14. Economic infrastructure is accounting for an increasing share of aid. General budget support has collapsed.

» [view publication](#) [PDF, 1115KB]

» [read blog](#)

PB 14 Aid law: what is it good for?

Robin Davies and Camilla Burkot, June 2016

The Australian Labor Party pledged in 2015 to introduce aid legislation with certain features if elected. Twelve of the main donor countries get by with no significant aid legislation. The United Kingdom's aid volume legislation has real bite but risks a backlash. In eight other countries, legislation exists but has little practical effect. Nevertheless, there is a case—regardless of the 2016 election outcome—for Australian legislation in two apolitical, fundamental areas: aid monitoring and evaluation, and aid transparency.

» [view publication](#) [PDF, 628KB]

» [read blog](#)

Reports

Australian aid: signs of risk - the 2015 Australian Aid Stakeholder Survey

Terence Wood, Camilla Burkot and Stephen Howes, February 2016

This report summarises the findings of the [2015 Australian aid stakeholder survey](#). The Development Policy Centre conducted its first ever Australian aid stakeholder survey prior to the 2013 elections. We assessed the state of Australian aid by gathering input from stakeholders — aid experts who have worked with the aid program regularly and who have first-hand experience of its performance. In the second half of 2015 we repeated the Australian aid stakeholder survey, using the same methods and asking similar questions, allowing analysis of the impact of the changes to the aid program between the two surveys.

» [view report](#) [pdf, 2.1 MB]

» [view summary](#) [pdf]

» [download survey data](#) [zip, 3.7 MB]

» [view blog](#)

» [view Canberra Times op-ed](#)

A mixed review for New Zealand aid - the 2015 stakeholder survey

Terence Wood and Camilla Burkot, March 2016

This report summarises the findings of the [2015 New Zealand Aid Stakeholder Survey](#), which was carried out for the first time in 2015. The NZ survey closely mirrored the Australian aid stakeholder survey in both questions and methodology – we assessed the state of New Zealand government aid by soliciting the feedback of NGO representatives and contractors to the aid programme.

» [view report](#) [pdf, 2.6 MB]

» [view blog](#)

» [download survey data](#) [zip, 1.9 MB]

Pacific Stories: Devpolicy Blog posts in 2014-15

Tess Newton Cain and Matthew Dornan (eds), June 2016

» [download booklet](#) [pdf, 1.7 MB]

Journal and other publications

Anderson, I. et al. 2016. How can health ministries present persuasive investment plans for women's, children's and adolescents' health. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, vol. 94, pp. 468-474.

Dornan, M. 2016. The political economy of road management reform: Papua New Guinea's National Road Fund, *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies* (in press)

Dornan, M. and Shah, K. 2016. Energy policy, aid, and the development of renewable energy resources in Small Island Developing States, *Energy Policy* (in press)

Howes, S. with multiple authors (of which Lokuge, K. the first named) 2016 Health services for gender-based violence: MSF experience caring for survivors in urban PNG, *PLoS ONE* vol 11(6), e0156813. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0156813.

Howes, S. and Pryke, J. 2016. Australian and Indian development cooperation: some similarities, more contrasts. Chapter 11 in Chaturvedi, S. and Mulakala, A. (eds.) *India's approach to development cooperation*, Routledge.

McKenna, K. 2016. Land of the unexpected: natural resource conflict and peace building in Papua New Guinea, *Business, Peace and Sustainable Development*, vol. 7, pp. 32-49.

Voigt-Graf, C. 2016, Papua New Guinea's work permit system and non-citizen workforce, NRI Issues Paper, Port Moresby: The National Research Institute.

Walton, G 2016, 'Gramsci's activists: How local civil society is shaped by the anticorruption industry, political society and translocal encounters', *Political Geography*, vol. 53, pp. 10-19.

Walton, G 2016, 'Silent screams and muffled cries: The ineffectiveness of anti-corruption measures in Papua New Guinea ', *Asian Education and Development Studies*, vol. 5, no. 2, pp. 211 - 226.

Wood, T 2016. 'Is culture the cause? Choices, expectations, and electoral politics in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.' *Pacific Affairs* 89:31-52.

MAJOR PROJECTS

Gates Foundation-funded research on Australian and New Zealand aid

Our program of research on Australian and New Zealand aid, funded by the Gates Foundation, is advancing well, with several major outputs to report. In January, we launched the Australian Aid Tracker website (devpolicy.org/aidtracker), which received significant attention and positive feedback in the media, within the university and among aid stakeholders. It has had 13,000 pageviews since its launch.

In February and March, the findings from the 2015 Australian and New Zealand aid stakeholder surveys were launched in Canberra and Wellington, respectively. This was the second Australian survey and the inaugural one for New Zealand, and both were received with great interest from government and the NGO sector as well as from media.

Research related to public opinion on aid in Australia and New Zealand also continued in the first half of 2016. Preliminary findings from survey experiments conducted in late 2015 were presented at the 2016 Australasian Aid Conference, and public opinion data on attitudes to aid was collected for the first time since 2007 in New Zealand; analyses of both were published on the Devpolicy Blog. We have also been working with ACFID and the Campaign for Australian Aid to develop a suite of survey questions about aid which will be included in the Australian Survey of Social Attitudes later this year.

In addition to this research, we have stepped up our engagement with ACFID and other Australian NGOs to support improved data collection around their supporter bases for use in campaigning work and to build on existing research on the drivers of support for Australian NGOs. This was supplemented by a workshop convened by Devpolicy in April, which brought together about 25 NGO representatives and academics to discuss ways to improve the domestic environment for aid in Australia.

Mitchell Global Humanitarian Award

In February, we announced a new prize, the Mitchell Global Humanitarian Award, which will recognise Australians and others supported by Australian aid who have made an outstanding contribution to the cause of international development.

The Mitchell Global Humanitarian Award will be awarded annually, starting in early 2017. The Award will be selected from a set of Aid Profiles that will be written each year to form a shortlist, with the subjects for the profiles selected using the same selection criteria as for the award.

A distinguished selection panel for the Award has been established. The panel will be chaired by Stephanie Copus-Campbell, experienced development practitioner, and currently Director with the Harold Mitchell Foundation and Executive Director with the Oil Search Foundation. The other two panel members are Bob McMullan, former Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, and Jo Chandler, award-winning journalist, author and editor. The Award will include a \$10,000 donation to the charity of the awardee's choice.

The Award has been named in honour of leading businessman and philanthropist Harold Mitchell AC, to mark his long-term commitment to international development and promoting Australia's role in its region. The Aid Profiles series is supported by our funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Labour mobility work

Our ongoing partnership with the World Bank resulted in a new report, *Pacific Possible: Labour Mobility* launched at the Pacific Update in Suva, Fiji in July and to be launched in Canberra in early August. The report sets out and quantifies the impact of a range of recommendations to greatly widen the scope for Pacific labour mobility. Underlying this report – authored by Jesse Doyle of the World Bank and Stephen Howes, Matthew Dornan and Richard Curtain of the Development Policy Centre – is a series of research reports which have been produced by a range of authors, and which were discussed at a Pacific Labour Mobility workshop on 2 June.

UPNG Partnership

The ANU-UPNG partnership began its first full year in its expanded form as part of the Australian Aid Program's Pacific Governance and Leadership Precinct. WE had four Devpolicy staff in Port Moresby in the first semester of 2016 – Michael Cornish, Rohan Fox, Tatia Currie, and Dr Manoj Pandey. Michael Cornish has now finished, and Rohan Fox will be based in Canberra from second semester onwards (as a Research Officer). Dr Lhwang Ugyel has just joined Dr Pandey, and Dr Amanda Watson will be the final joinee. While the project has made good progress, the unrest and ultimate closure of the university, possibly for the remainder of the year, has forced us to rethink our approach, a process which is still underway. The PNG Update has been postponed to the second half of the year

Femili PNG – Lae Case Management Centre

Femili PNG continues to achieve or exceed monthly client targets working closely and effectively with service delivery partners in Lae to assist survivors of family and sexual violence.

We signed an MOU with the Salvation Army safehouse in Lae and through this agreement have, among other things, provided support for renovations to improve the standard of care our clients receive.

In Lae, we have hired a Stakeholder and Communications Officer to improve our outreach to businesses and other partners. In May, we were joined by Lindy Kanan, who replaced Kath Taplin as Femili PNG's Development Manager based in Canberra.

With the maturing of the project, Dr Kamalini Lokuge has shifted away from a broader oversight role to focus exclusively on research and M&E as Research Director (on a pro bono basis).

Our Operations Manager, Denga Ilave, visited Australia in May on a four-city speaking tour, which generated considerable interest from the PNG private sector as well as Australian media attention.

We have hosted some high level visitors at our Lae centre this year including the Australian High Commissioner and US Ambassador to PNG.

State and societal responses to corruption in PNG

We're pleased to announce that the centre has been awarded funding, for two years, to research state and societal responses to corruption in PNG. The project will see us collaborate with the University of Birmingham's Developmental Leadership Program (DLP) to carry out an innovative experiment, integrity mapping, and a survey. The project will provide policy makers and others with recommendations on how to support anti-corruption efforts. Grant Walton leads the project from our side, while Caryn Peiffer heads DLP's engagement. We're grateful to the Australian Government aid program, in partnership with the University of Birmingham, for funding this research.

ANU-NRI Partnership

The partnership between the Development Policy Centre and the National Research Institute (NRI) is progressing under the leadership of Devpolicy Fellow Dr Carmen Voigt-Graf, who is based at NRI in Port Moresby as a member of the NRI's Economic Policy Research Programme. An MOU between NRI and the Development Policy Centre has been in place since December 2014. The 2016 work program under the ANU-NRI partnership on "Promoting Effective Public Resource Management" was endorsed by the NRI Council in February 2016. The work programme includes joint research activities, fora and publications under the two broad areas of "Budgets and economic management" and "Effective service delivery". Under "Effective service delivery", two research projects are ongoing. The first project concerns provincial road management and is done jointly between NRI and ANU researchers. Under the second project, which will be commissioned out, service delivery at sub-national levels will be investigated. Research under "budgets and economic management" will focus on the implementation of PNG's Sovereign Wealth Fund and will start when the SWF is being implemented. In addition, Carmen Voigt-Graf is the lead researcher in several projects under NRI's "Economic policy analysis" theme in the areas of PNG's work permit system, on the employment and skills development impacts of the LNG project, and on employment and skills development during provincial road building and maintenance.

Pacific Update

The Pacific Update conference was held at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji in July, organised by Devpolicy in partnership with ADB, ADBI and USP. The conference this year was the largest yet, with 400 participants attending over two days, consolidating its position as the premier conference on public policy in the region. The Fijian Attorney-General and Minister for Finance, together with the Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, opened the event. Topics discussed included climate change adaptation, labour mobility and remittance income, fisheries management, linking of tourism and agriculture, and management of resource rents. The conference also brought together the Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics, University of PNG and the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management, Timor-Leste National University (UNTL), for a discussion on educating the next generation of leaders. All organising institutions have confirmed that they are eager to hold the event again in July 2017.

STAFFING

New staff

Husnia Hushang joined us in May as Program Officer to cover Macarena Rojas' maternity leave.

Tara Davda joined us as a Research Officer, providing support to our PNG research.

Michelle Rooney joined us in Canberra as a Research Fellow on our UPNG project.

Dr Manoj Pandey and **Tatia Curry** joined Michael Cornish and Rohan Fox in Port Moresby to work as lecturers at UPNG.

New visiting fellows

Bob McMullan joined us as a Visiting Fellow from early 2016. He has had a long and distinguished career in the Australian Parliament as one of Australia's pre-eminent Labor politicians. He is a former Parliamentary Secretary for International Development (2007-2010) and Executive Director for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Dr Carola Betzold joined us as a Visiting Fellow in June 2016. She is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Policy and Management at the University of Antwerp in Belgium. Her research concerns the interplay of climate change and development cooperation, with a specific focus on aid and adaptation in small island developing states.

Dr Gordon Peake joined us a Visiting Fellow. He has worked extensively in Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, and the Pacific. His book 'Beloved Land: Stories, Struggles and Secrets from Timor-Leste' was winner of the 2014 ACT Book of the Year and People's Choice Awards.

Professor Lekshmi N. Pillai is the Dean of the School of Business and Public Policy (SBPP) at the University of Papua New Guinea. He leads the partnership between Crawford School of Public Policy and the UPNG SBPP, and is a regular visitor to the Development Policy Centre and ANU.

Bob Warner has worked at the Productivity Commission, the World Bank, the Centre for International Economics and the Crawford School of Public Policy (where he was Director Pacific Research Partnerships with for the Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies Journal).

Interns and volunteers

We hosted two summer interns in January and February, who helped with preparation for the aid conference and other administrative and communications tasks – **Sienna Lake** and **Gina Zheng**. They were supervised by Ashlee Betteridge. Ashlee also supervised a team of volunteers for the aid conference: **Sienna Lake, Husnia Hushang, Sarah Heywood, Stephanie Rowell, Jacqui Battin, Sachini Muller** and **Gina Zheng**.

We hosted two research interns from the Australian National Internships Program in Semester 1. **Qaleem Ainuddin** was supervised by Anthony Swan, and carried out research on RCTs and the private sector in developing countries. **Sachini Muller** was supervised by Terence Wood and Ashlee Betteridge, and carried out research on how Australian NGOs use their websites and social media. Sachini's research was accepted and presented at the ANU Undergraduate Student Research Conference in July 2016, and will be included in the conference journal. Sachini and Terence are currently turning the research into a discussion paper, which is nearing finalisation.

Femili PNG has also been supported by a number of volunteers in the first half of this year, including **Mary-Jane Heron** and **Kelly Williamson**.

Appendix A: Media mentions January – June 2016

1. [From economic boom to crisis management in PNG](#) – Paul Flanagan, East Asia Forum, 2 January.
2. [PNG's economy is a Greek tragedy in the making](#) – Paul Flanagan, 5 January.
3. Economic boom to fiscal in Papua New Guinea – Paul Flanagan, One PNG, January. <http://www.onepng.com/2016/01/economic-boom-to-fiscal-crisis-in-papua.html>
4. [Academic says PNG economy facing crisis](#) – Paul Flanagan, Pacific Beat, 6 January.
5. Making tough decisions, reprint of Paul Flanagan blog and op-ed, The National, p.33 , 7 January.
6. PNG's economy a Greek tragedy in the making, quotes Paul Flanagan, Post Courier, p. 7, 7 January.
7. [What will 2016 bring for the Pacific?](#) Tess Newton Cain (from Devpolicy Blog post) Pacific Beat, 7 January.
8. [Panguna mine: PNG attempt to buy Rio Tinto's shares in Australian mining company 'completely unacceptable'](#), quotes Associate Matt Morris, ABC News, 11 January.
9. [2016 predictions for the Pacific](#), Tess Newton Cain, Pacific Beat, 8 January.
10. [Skepticism over Kiribati purchase of Fiji land](#), quotes from Devpolicy Blog post, Radio NZ, 13 January.
11. [Australian Aid Tracker Shows PNG And Indonesia Receive Most Funds But Pot Is Getting Smaller](#), Ashlee Betteridge/Aid Tracker, Huffington Post, 27 January.
12. Terence Wood – Interview on Aid Tracker with 2SSS, 28 January.
13. Terence Wood – Interview on Aid Tracker – ABC 666 Canberra Genevieve Jacobs, 29 January.
14. [New independent 'Tracker' website for Aussie Aid](#), Ashlee Betteridge interview, Pacific Beat, 27 January.
15. [PNG's financial management poor and worsening says report](#), John Leonardo (wrote a Devpolicy Blog on topic), Pacific Beat, 29 January.
16. [Politics complicating PNG's drought relief: researcher](#), Colin Wiltshire (based off blog), Pacific Beat, 25 January.
17. [Worst impacts of PNG drought may not be seen until after the rains return](#), Mike Bourke, (off Devpolicy policy brief and blog), Pacific Beat, 18 January.
18. [New ANU website tracks changes to Australian aid](#), Terence Wood/Aid Tracker, ANU homepage, 28 January.
19. [Devpolicy launches Australian Aid Tracker](#), Ashlee Betteridge/Aid Tracker, Crawford School website, 27 January.
20. [Fix DFAT culture to retain foreign aid skills: stakeholders](#), on Australian Stakeholder Survey, The Mandarin, February.
21. [Survey finds Australian budget cuts put aid program at risk](#), Terence Wood/Stakeholder Survey, Pacific Beat, 11 February.
22. [Interview on aid stakeholder survey](#), ABC Mornings, 10 February.
23. [Australian aid becoming less effective](#) – survey, ANU homepage, 11 February.
24. [Helping poor people in developing countries less important for Australia aid: ANU survey](#), story on stakeholder survey, Canberra Times, 11 February.
25. [ANU survey finds Australian overseas aid now seen to be less effective](#), Terence Wood, Camilla Burkot and Stephen Howes, Canberra Times, 10 February 2016 (op-ed).
26. [Asia will need less aid by 2025: DFAT boss](#), Aid Conference Coverage, Australian Associated Press, 10 February.

27. [Health system in PNG not ready to respond to medical pandemic: researcher](#), Aid Conference Coverage, Pacific Beat, 12 February.
28. [Perceived decline in Australia's aid program: survey](#), SBS News, 16 February.
29. [Varghese's welcome shift on aid](#), Aid Conference Coverage, Lowy Interpreter, 16 February.
30. [Aid & development links: Aid conference recap and Australia's new Minister for the Pacific](#), Lowy Interpreter, 15 February.
31. [Podcast #1: Joel Negin at #AAC2016](#) – aid conference coverage – February.
32. [2016 Australasian Aid Conference](#), Oxfam Monash Storify
33. [Politics, risk and development: three takeaways](#), aid conference coverage, DLP Program blog, 19 February.
34. [Robyn Alders: Saving chooks, empowering women](#), aid profile by Stephen Howes, in Canberra Times, March 1.
35. [Innovation makes aid dollars count](#) – preview story ahead of Mark Dybul lecture, Australian Financial Review, 28 February.
36. ['He might track me down and kill me': fleeing domestic violence in PNG](#), Femili PNG coverage, The Guardian, 1 March.
37. [Women seek islands of refuge in Papua New Guinea's sea of violence](#), Femili PNG coverage, The Guardian, 1 March.
38. [Addressing violence against women in Papua New Guinea needs holistic responses](#), IWDA Blog, 4 March.
39. [An embarrassed Australia meets a bolder Papua New Guinea](#), Michelle Rooney, Lowy Interpreter, 29 February.
40. [Expert predicts 4 million Zika cases](#) – preview of Mark Dybul lecture – ABC The World, 26 February.
41. Report highlights problems with society, Devpolicy Blog by Logea Nao (Greg Taylor scholar) reprinted in The National, p. 13, 10 March.
42. [Public opinion on Australian aid: cuts and criticism](#) – coverage of aid conference – Australian Institute for International Affairs
43. [The world needs a humanitarian fund to assist long-term crises](#), Robin Davies, The Guardian, 13 April 2016 (op-ed)
44. [NZ aid survey shows faults in system](#) – Terence Wood, Radio New Zealand, 1 April.
45. [PNG lawyer pushes Australia to take back Manus detainees](#) – Stephen Howes on PNG aid, Radio New Zealand, 2 May.
46. [The failed state of PNG](#), Stephen Howes interview, The Saturday Paper, 30 April.
47. [Rich aid sweeteners at risk after Manus Island shut-down](#), Stephen Howes quoted, Sydney Morning Herald, 28 April.
48. [Comment: Defence expected to be up, foreign aid down in budget 2016](#), Stephen Howes comment, SBS News, 30 April.
49. New economics graduates embark on career pathway, Michael Cornish, Post Courier, p. 20, 2 May.
50. Unit lacks resources: report, blog by Ashlee Betteridge quoted, The National, p. 14, 2 May.
51. [The budget must begin to repair Australia's foreign aid program](#) – Editorial quoting stakeholder survey/aid tracker data, Sydney Morning Herald, 1 May.
52. [As new budget cycle approaches, unpredictability hounds Australian aid](#), stakeholder survey cited, Devex, 21 April.
53. [Manus island decision unlikely to threaten PNG's aid](#), Stephen Howes interview, Dateline Pacific, 2 May.

54. [Show Turnbull how it's done: make your own tax reforms – interactive](#), cites Aid Tracker, The Guardian, 10 February.
55. [Budget 2016: foreign aid now at all time low](#), Stephen Howes interview with RN Breakfast, 4 May.
56. [Australian budget reveals further cuts to foreign aid spending](#), Stephen Howes interview, Radio Australia Pacific Beat, 4 May.
57. [Foreign aid cuts in budget 'the Donald Trump approach', CARE Australia chief executive says](#), cites Devpolicy analysis, ABC, 4 May.
58. [Savage budget cuts pull Australia down in foreign aid rankings](#), Robin Davies, The Conversation, 4 May (op-ed).
59. [The 'Moral Crisis' Treasurer Scott Morrison Railed Against In Opposition And Abandoned In Government](#), Matthew Dornan, New Matilda, 25 May (op-ed)
60. Stephen Howes interview with ABC NSW Regional re backpacker tax and seasonal workers, 17 May.
61. [There is hope for PNG and Australia's shared domestic violence challenge](#), Denga Ilave (Femili PNG), ABC The Drum, 20 May (op-ed)
62. [Femili PNG Lae centre providing vital support for survivors of family violence](#), Denga Ilave (Femili PNG), Radio Australia, 18 May.
63. [UN urges action on family violence in PNG](#), Denga Ilave (Femili PNG), The World, ABC News 24, 18 May.
64. [Interview with Alex Sloane - MP3 file](#), Denga Ilave and Stephen Howes, ABC 666 Afternoons, 19 May.
65. [PNG needs to train more counsellors](#), Denga Ilave (Femili PNG), Australian Associated Press, 1 June.
66. [Programs making a difference to PNG's high rates of family violence](#), Denga Ilave (Femili PNG), The World Today - Radio National, 23 May.
67. [Backpacker tax could benefit Pacific workers](#), Stephen Howes, Australian Associated Press, 21 May.
68. [Canberra family to run half-marathon to fund domestic violence services in PNG](#), Stephen Howes/Femili PNG, The Riot Act, 20 May.
69. [McCully to blame for NZ aid underspend](#), Terence Wood interview, Radio New Zealand, 30 May.
70. [Tackling Domestic Violence in Papua New Guinea](#), Denga Ilave interview, 2ser, 31 May.
71. [Making ground in the fight against gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea](#), Femili PNG, Lowy Interpreter, 24 June.
72. Grant Walton and Denise Lokinap (UPNG) - NPR East New Britain's talkback show appearance in June.
73. Grant Walton television interview on PNG student protests with Channel News Asia's prime-time news program, 8 June.
74. Manoj Pandey - full-page commentary on economic and bilateral significance of the Indian Presidential visit to PNG in the Post Courier.