

“ ANOTHER FISH IN THE CAN”?

**2018 Australasian Aid Conference:
Panel on Working with National NGOs
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1. What is the role of civil society organisations and national and local NGOs in bringing about sustainable change towards gender equality, and development outcomes in general?

- particularly women's organisations and feminist movements

a) What evidence do we have on this?

b) To what extent are we investigating and evaluating this?

2. To what extent does Australian government and non-government aid nurture and support autonomous local and national NGOs to define and implement their own agendas for change?

- particularly women's organisations and feminist movements

a) What data and evidence do we have on this?

- *Financial*

- *Partnership and capacity building*

b) Has the nature of the relationship with national NGOs changed in recent years, and if so, why?

3. What do we say we are doing? What is our policy/rhetoric on engaging with local change-makers?

- both government and non-government/INGO donors
- a) What expectations do we have of ourselves?
- b) What ethical commitments and benchmarks do we apply to our efforts to engage in authentic partnerships?

4. What needs to change in the way Australian aid/development agencies and practitioners partner with and relate to national NGOs?

- Why is it important to have a discussion on these issues?
- What ethical parameters do we need for ongoing reflection, evaluation and policy development in this area?

“... the strategies taken in development should be determined by those most likely to bear the risks of failure ...”

Source: Doug Porter (1991) “Cutting stones for development: issues for Australian agencies” in Laurie Zivetz et. al. Doing Good: the Australian NGO Community Allen & Unwin, Sydney: 75.

“A shift towards genuine localisation and capacity-building of national actors requires those with control over and power within the humanitarian system to relinquish some of our power, resources and expert status, and be led by national and local women’s rights organisations and actors.

Moreover, we need to stand in solidarity with the women who have been doing this work for a long time.”

Source: COFEM (2017) “Finding the balance between scientific and social change goals, approaches and methods”, Feminist Perspectives on Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls Series, Paper No. 3, Coalition of Feminists for Social Change (emphasis added).