

# Better a month late than never – Australian aid Blue Book released

By Jonathan Pryke and Stephen Howes  
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Quietly accompanying Foreign Minister Julie Bishop's announcement of a new aid strategy and framework (a not so 'new aid paradigm'—see our analysis [here](#)) was the release of a Blue Book equivalent on the DFAT website. Along with updating the 'budget highlights' page to include the 'Global Programmes' component that was previously left out of the highlights, a link appeared to a Word document: '[The 2014-15 development assistance budget: a summary \[DOCX 403 KB\]](#)'. This document is only a formatting job and few extra tables away from being the 2014-15 Blue Book.

Perhaps one reason it wasn't released at budget time is that it structures the aid program using the Coalition's just-released sectoral breakdown for the aid program.

As well as providing information on the Coalition's areas of focus, it provides a more generalised breakdown of sectoral funding, which, as shown [here](#), is very similar to the 2013-14 distribution.

This release is a very welcome development, and certainly one that helps Australian aid transparency. Let's hope the Blue Book, or this new incarnation, returns to being a fixture of the Budget process in the years to come.

## **About the author/s**

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Jonathan Pryke worked at the Development Policy Centre from 2011, and left in mid-2015 to join the Lowy Institute, where he is now Director of the Pacific Islands Program. He has a Master of Public Policy/Master of Diplomacy from Crawford School of Public Policy and the College of Diplomacy, ANU.

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Link: <https://devpolicy.org/better-a-month-late-than-never-australian-aid-blue-book-released/>

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