



Devpolicy News (August 16): 5 problems with new Pacific solution | Aid in the elections | Our post-2015 proposal

By Development Policy Centre
16 August 2013

Five problems with the new Pacific solution

It's been a busy month for us, responding to the Government's plan to transfer asylum-seekers to PNG and now Nauru. In our blog coverage, we've made five main points:

- The agreement between PNG and Australia has shifted the balance of power in the Pacific. As Michelle Nayahamui Rooney [puts](#) it, it has placed "Australia into a position of dependence on PNG.... undermining Australia's ability to take PNG leaders to task on matters of significant importance for Australia in the PNG development arena."
- Then there is the damage done to PNG. As Grant Walton [writes](#): "painting PNG as a basket case now underpins asylum seeker policy." The self-inflicted damage to PNG's reputation by this announcement is a form of "negative nationalism" and will undermine the country's development prospects.
- But will the "solution" work? Stephen Howes [argues that](#) implementation weaknesses in PNG undermine the credibility of the PNG-Australia agreement. Non-credible agreements do not provide enduring solutions.

- The agreement will have a cost in terms of not only aid dollars but also aid effectiveness. Stephen Howes [argues here](#) that the agreement has diluted the focus of the Australian aid program on PNG, which had until last month maintained a strong focus on maintenance and service delivery, by diverting efforts into construction.
- Finally, Robin Davies has [exposed](#) the fact that the August budget statement and MOUs with PNG and Nauru suggest that the introduction of off-shore community detention is imminent and will be charged to the aid budget, almost certainly in contravention of DAC guidelines.

Aid in the elections

Labor hasn't said much so far on aid policy, but Julie Bishop has been vocal, calling aid one of the three main foreign policy differentiators between Labor and the Coalition. Read our coverage [here](#) and [here](#). Bishop has also indicated she would reconsider PACER Plus, the ill-fated trade agreement with the Pacific, and that she would expand the Seasonal Worker Program.

We held a packed ACT election forum on aid with Oxfam, Oaktree and Make Poverty History this week. The podcast is available [here](#).

For related analysis, see [here](#) on the August aid cuts. And watch out for our forthcoming analysis of key aid issues and party policies.

[A new post-2015 proposal](#)

Robin Davies, Associate Director, Development Policy Centre

Thursday 29 August @ 12:30-1:30pm

Barton Theatre, Level 1, JG Crawford Building 132, Lennox Crossing, ANU

Robin Davies has assessed the proposals now available for what should replace the MDGs after 2015, and he's come up with his own compelling proposal in the process. Robin suggests nine goals, six for people, three for enablers. Come along on Thursday August 29th to find out more. Register [here](#).

Rationalising the G20's development agenda

Robin has also been busy writing about what the G20 should do for development. You can read his article in the most recent *G20 Monitor* from the Lowy Institute. Robin argues for a more focused approach, with an emphasis on infrastructure, social protection, and concessional financing.

Robin has posted an abstract of his paper [here](#) as a brief. You can download the full G20 Monitor [here](#).

The Australian aid stakeholder survey

The [Australian aid stakeholder survey](#) is our effort (as explained [here](#)) to obtain feedback on the effectiveness of the Australian aid program, and suggestions for its improvement. Whether you are involved in the aid program or simply interested in it, whether you live in Australia or overseas, and whether you are on the giving or the receiving end of the aid relationship, we are interested in hearing from you. The survey will be open until the end of August. Results will be released after the Australian federal election.

We have had more than 200 responses to the survey so far. If you haven't participated yet, you can fill out the survey [here](#). It only takes about 15 minutes.

NZ aid beyond 2015

Wednesday 4 September

Wellington, New Zealand

The New Zealand Aid and Development Dialogues (NZADDs) is running a half-day forum at the Victoria University of Wellington on 4 September on aid's role amid the shifting context of global development, and how New Zealand's aid and development efforts can best respond. Devpolicy Director Stephen Howes will be speaking on the topic: 'The future of aid: does it have one, and if so, what does it look like?'. Click [here](#) for more information.

PNG's lost decade? The next PNG budget forum

Thursday 19 September

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Our next budget forum jointly organised with [PNG's National Research Institute](#) (NRI) will be held on Thursday, 19 September at NRI. We'll be comparing findings from our 2012 survey of more than 200 schools and 150 health facilities from across PNG with a similar survey from 2002 to judge to what extent PNG has been able to translate its massive resources boom into better services for ordinary people. For more information contact [Colin Wiltshire](#) or [Andrew Mako](#).

2014 Australasian Aid and International Development Policy Workshop

February 13-14, 2014

Australian National University

In February 2014 the Development Policy Centre, together with the Asia Foundation, will be hosting the first [Australasian Aid and International Development Policy Workshop](#). The

convenors of this multidisciplinary workshop, Professor Stephen Howes, Director of the Development Policy Centre at ANU and Dr Joel Negin, Senior Lecturer in International Public Health at the University of Sydney, welcome papers on a range of topics relating to aid effectiveness, the political economy of aid, aid from non-traditional donors, international public goods, the international development architecture, international climate change policy, and migration and trade.

Abstracts should be submitted to devpolicy@anu.edu.au. Submissions are welcome from academics, students and practitioners. For more information, click [here](#).

Welcoming our Semester 2 interns

Two new interns have joined us this semester from the Australian National Internships Program. Parima Panpruet is an ANU student in her third year of an economics and finance degree and Wilma Gillies is a University of Sydney student in her final year of studying economics and psychology. During their time with us, Parima will look at Australian aid flows over time while Wilma will be analysing the availability of project level information on the AusAID website.

Blog summary

You can find a summary of all posts since our last newsletter on August 1 in the list below.

Analysis

Aid

[Joining the African Development Bank: practicalities and politics](#) by Robin Davies and Joel Negin

[AusAID needs a technology for development strategy](#) by Gerard McCarthy

[Foreign aid in the August statement: pushing back the scale up for the fifth time; more details on aid to PNG](#) by Stephen Howes

[AusAID's favourite group of Australian NGOs gets a little bigger](#) by Jonathan Pryke and Robin Davies

Global development policy

[Foreign agents at the Bolshoi: what Australia can learn from the Russian civil G20 process](#) by Nancy Waites

The Pacific

[Tara Chetty: Fiji democracy and women's rights](#) by Tess Newton Cain and Tara Chetty

[How to respond to the impasse in Fiji?](#) by Jon Fraenkel

PNG

[Solid waste management in Papua New Guinea](#) by Thomas Wangi

[Setting the stage for community detention in PNG and Nauru](#) by Robin Davies

[A whole new set of questions: asylum seekers in PNG communities?](#) by Robin Davies and Stephen Howes

[Asylum seekers, negative nationalism and the PNG solution](#) by Grant Walton

[Greg Taylor on super reform in PNG](#) by Greg Taylor and Stephen Howes

[Greg Taylor on PNG with options](#) by Greg Taylor and Stephen Howes

In brief

[Foreign aid tops list for cuts ... but from what base?](#)

[Cambodia's elections and aid: what will happen now?](#)

[Vietnam's disadvantaged kids outperform Indian students in education survey](#)

[PNG's lost decade? PEPE budget forum - 19 September at PNG's National Research Institute](#)

[New report shows shockwaves of PNG's family violence epidemic](#)

[Pacific Islands Development Forum launch in Fiji](#)

[Bishop-Carr debate shows key points of difference on aid](#)

[Cautious optimism for malaria vaccine](#)

[The reality of healthcare in PNG](#)

[A sweet TV spot that shows potential of development](#)

[Humanitarian agencies respond to North Korea flood disaster](#)

[Visualising the incredible rise of remittances](#)

[Nauru asylum seeker announcement: no additional aid and no resettlement?](#)

[Vanuatu: Supreme Court decides two important cases with implications for government stability](#)

[What plot?—rationalising the G20’s development agenda](#)

[Analysis of the ‘PNG solution’ and the August economic statement](#)

[Call to increase cap for New Zealand’s Pacific seasonal worker scheme](#)

About the author/s

Development Policy Centre

Link:

<https://devpolicy.org/devpolicy-news-august-16-5-problems-with-new-pacific-solution-aid-in-the-elections-our-post-2015-proposal-20130816/>

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The Devpolicy Blog is based at the Development Policy Centre, Crawford School of Public Policy, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University.