

Devpolicy news: Foreign Minister opening aid workshop | Support Depolicy | Nauru's implosion

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Julie Bishop to open February aid workshop

Julie Bishop, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party of Australia, will open the proceedings of the 13-14 February [Australasian Aid and International Development Policy Workshop](#). Attendance will be limited to those that have registered for the two day workshop. You can access the draft program [here](#), and register [here](#). (Note that registration costs \$275; \$165 for students.) You can also register separately for three of the other keynote sessions listed on the right.

Support Depolicy

This month we have established a new method of funding for Depolicy to crowdsource contributions from readers and contributors who like what we do and the independent voice that we provide. We can only be independent with independent funding. We are seeking support for our ongoing research and analysis, including the running of the [Depolicy Blog](#), and a new [program of research](#) into gender-based violence in PNG.

If you value what we do, enjoy reading our work, think that more attention needs to be paid to Australian aid and PNG and the Pacific, and think that an independent voice for the sector is important, you can make a contribution to the Development Policy Centre Endowment through ANU Philanthropy. Deductions over \$2 are tax deductible. Payment can be [made online](#) with Visa or Mastercard. Other payment options are [also available](#).

Upcoming events

[2014 Australasian aid and international development policy workshop](#)

_9am Thursday 13 February – 5pm Friday 14 February 2014

[Does foreign aid really work?](#)

Roger C Riddell, Oxford Policy Management (OPM)
Thursday 13 February @ 10am

[Forests for climate and development: what can rich countries do?](#)

Frances Seymour, Senior Fellow at the Centre for Global Development
Friday 14 February @ 9am

[Making their mark: the BRICS and aid](#)

Dr Rani Mullen, Dr Tongquan Sun and Dr Sean Burges
Friday 14 February @ 1.50pm

The PNG Update will be held at the University of PNG in Port Moresby 12-13 June and the Pacific Update will here at the ANU on 16-17 June. We have a [call for papers](#) out for the PNG Update. More details on both [here](#).

The next PNG Budget Forum will be held on Thursday 10 April at the National Research Institute in Port Moresby. The Forum will analyse the 2014 budget, and also release the next round of analysis from the PEPE survey. More details coming soon.

Blog highlights

Nauru's implosion. Tess Newton Cain's [in-depth analysis](#) of recent developments in Nauru not only highlights the breakdown of the rule of law in that country, but outlines Australia's causal role. The Pacific Solution now looks like Nauru's resource curse, and the country knows that it can get away with it.

MPs blogging. Bob McMullan, former Parliamentary Secretary for International Development, [endorses](#) the proposal of a Development Finance Company for Australia first put forward by Jim Adams in last year's [Harold Mitchell lecture](#).

John Langmore (like McMullan, a former MP for Fraser) [supports](#) the case for a universal social safety-net.

Aid cuts. Find out [here](#) what was cut the most to save \$500 million from this year's aid budget, and [here](#) about Australia's reduced contribution to the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries.

Blog summary

You can find a list of all posts since our last newsletter on 15 January in the list below.

Australian aid

[AusAID integration: the common-sense upside](#) by David Guy.

[Soap operas and Sesame Street: examples for the Australia Network?](#) By Ashlee Betteridge.

[Development Finance Company for Australia \(and New Zealand\)](#) by Bob McMullen.

[Australia cuts contribution to World Bank's poor-country fund by \\$95 million](#) by Stephen Howes and Jonathan Pryke.

Pacific & PNG

[SPC Ardmona: what does it mean for Australian horticulture and the Pacific Seasonal Worker Program?](#) By Jesse Doyle.

[The Pacific Solution and Nauru's coup by stealth](#) by Tess Newton Cain.

[Pacific Conversations: the economy of Samoa with Kolone Vaai](#) by Tess Newton Cain and Kolone Vaai.

[Agriculture in Samoa: changing farmers mindset is only one part of the solution](#) by Afamasaga Toleafoa.

Global development policy

['World's best' development NGO knocked off its perch](#) by Jonathan Pryke.

[A social safety-net in each country: a necessary condition for eradicating poverty?](#) By John Langmore.

In brief

[ODE releases long-awaited volunteers evaluation](#)

[Pacific seasonal worker arrivals up, but look set to fall short](#)

[Development economics in the Vanuatu context: one size doesn't fit all](#)

[Can Bill Gates make us all optimists?](#)

[DFAT to consult on aid benchmarks, ACFID makes its pitch](#)

[Africa, the environment and disaster relief bear the brunt of Coalition aid cuts](#)

[Australia pledges one-tenth of its fair share for Syria](#)