

## Newsletter: Aid conference program | Aid evaluations event | Aussie NGO fundraising costs + public opinion | PNG budget | COP21

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### Huge line-up for 2016 Australasian Aid Conference!

Each year, the [Australasian Aid Conference](#) gets bigger and better, and 2016 will be no exception. Our program is [now available](#) [pdf], and in addition to the keynotes we have already announced, we have a huge line-up of great panels. Some 75 papers will be presented across 25 panels, in addition to two plenaries and three keynotes. Some of the hot topics up for discussion in the panels include aid effectiveness, Australian aid, global health, fragile contexts, emerging donors, labour mobility, aid and the private sector, climate change and more. Peter Varghese of DFAT will deliver our opening address, and in her keynote, Kitty van de Heijden will talk about “forging a new development future” in the SDG era. Those attending the conference dinner will hear from former aid Parl Sec Bob McMullan. Plenaries will discuss Asian perspectives on the SDGs and the outcomes of the Paris climate talks. We’ll also be launching the results of our Aid Stakeholder Survey at the conference.

In previous years the conference has sold out in advance, so don’t miss out on your place: [register here](#).

We’re also on the hunt for conference volunteers and two Summer Communications and Events Interns: [details here](#).

### Australian aid evaluations forum: development partnerships

Next week we will once again host a lively debate on some of the latest evaluations from DFAT’s Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE). On Wednesday 9 December (9.15am-12.30pm, Barton Theatre), we will discuss an [evaluation of the Australian NGO Cooperation Program \(ANCP\)](#) and [Australia’s non-core funding to the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank](#). It should be a fascinating forum on some important partners to the aid program. Speakers will include staff from DFAT, ACFID and Devpolicy. Don’t miss our last event for the year! Program [here](#) and [register here](#).

### NGO fundraising costs up, but returns are declining

The efficiency of fundraising in the Australian development NGO sector is on the decline, according to [new analysis](#) from Jonathan Wilson, Jonathan Pryke and Stephen Howes. In two posts, they look at the [overall](#)

[performance](#) of the sector on fundraising expenditure, and then look at [the fundraising efficiency of individual NGOs](#). There's also some [interesting comments](#) on the efficacy of NGO fundraising methods—join the discussion.

### **Who supports and who opposes Australian aid?**

In a new [discussion paper](#) and two blogs ([here](#) and [here](#)), Terence Wood further explores survey data on Australians' attitudes to aid.

In short, people who are more likely to support Australian aid are people who vote Green, have had higher education, are younger, or attend a religious service once a week or more. Of course it is all a lot more complex than that, so read the blogs or the paper to get the full story!

### **2016 PNG Budget in focus**

In a series of two posts ([here](#) and [here](#)), Paul Flanagan takes a close look at PNG's 2016 Budget. Paul concludes that even though this was always going to be a tough budget for PNG, and while fiscal consolidation is certainly needed, "more modest expenditure cuts, better prioritization, and revenue reforms would have been a better alternative" to the budget presented.

### **Paris climate talks: finance and the fine art of negotiation**

Ahead of COP21, Stephen Howes [set the scene](#) for the negotiations, arguing that the Paris talks are "Europe gambling on China". In the lead-up, Robin Davies also looked at what would make a [respectable financing commitment from Australia](#). Following PM Turnbull's pledge in Paris that Australia would provide A\$1 billion over the next five years for climate financing, to be drawn from 'our existing aid program', Robin [argued](#) that this amount is about half of what most observers would consider to be credible. He also [showed](#) how Australia's pledge comes up poorly when compared internationally.

### **2016 PNG Update**

The call for papers for the 2016 PNG Update on 15–17 June 2016 at UPNG in Port Moresby is now open. Find out more details [on the website](#).

### **Upcoming events**

*Australian aid evaluations: development partnerships*

Wednesday 9 December, 9.15am-12.30pm, Barton Theatre. [Register here](#).

*2016 Australasian Aid Conference*

10–11 February 2016. Registrations open. [Details here](#).

### **Blog highlights**

Elton John [a fan of Australian aid](#)

Ewen McDonald [on White Ribbon Day](#)

Femili PNG submission [to PNG violence inquiry](#)

### **On the blog**

[Declining fundraising efficiency: the story at the individual NGO level](#) by Jonathan Wilson, Jonathan Pryke

and Stephen Howes

[Climate finance: the Paris opera, and Australia's \(un\)supporting role](#) by Robin Davies

[PNG Budget 2016 – a detailed analysis](#) by Paul Flanagan

[Expenditure in PNG's 2016 Budget – a detailed analysis](#) by Paul Flanagan

[Paris: Europe's gamble, China's key](#) by Stephen Howes

[The billion dollar bill: Australia's climate finance requirement, 2016-2020](#) by Robin Davies

[Running faster to stand still: Australian development NGO fundraising costs](#) by Jonathan Wilson, Jonathan Pryke and Stephen Howes

[Violence against women must stop](#) by Ewen McDonald

[Who opposed Australia's aid cuts?](#) By Terence Wood

[Who supports Australian aid?](#) By Terence Wood

#### **In brief**

[Fortnightly links: understanding ISIS, democratic leadership, Australian generosity, and more...](#)

[Australian aid a tiny dancer compared to UK effort: Elton John](#)

[Summer communications and event interns + conference volunteers](#)

[Renewables and Melanesia development: events in Sydney and Canberra](#)

[Femili PNG submission to parliamentary inquiry into violence against women and children in PNG](#)

*This is the fortnightly newsletter of the [Development Policy Centre](#) at Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University, published every second Friday.*