

Leadership and Growth in the Pacific: New approaches in Australian aid

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Australia has an interest in seeing a Pacific region that is growing economically, with strong and informed leadership, building on the aspirations of its people; guiding them through the many economic, environmental, and social challenges the future holds.

Australia's White Paper

- The objective of Australia's overseas aid program is "To assist developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, in line with Australia's national interest." (p.x)
- In order to achieve this objective the aid program is organised around four themes:
 - Economic growth
 - Fostering functioning and effective states
 - Investing in people
 - Promoting regional stability and cooperation.

Pacific 2020

- Pacific 2020 notes the following:
 - “While different countries in the region face different challenges, and some countries have better growth prospects than others, their one commonality is that ultimately their success in generating economic growth and in meeting their many challenges depends on the decisions their governments make.” (2)

Leadership and Growth

Two major pillars of the Australian aid program's strategy include:

1. Accelerating Economic Growth; and
2. Fostering Functioning Effectives States and in particular its focus on leadership;

Growth

- The Pacific Survey
- Pacific Land Program;
- Trade;
- Private Sector Development;

Growth

- Infrastructure for Growth Initiative;
- Fisheries;
- Rural Development

Leadership

- A focus on building demand for better governance.
- AusAID has a proven track record in support for civil society
- This commitment was reaffirmed in the White Paper— new investments of \$41 million for 2007-08 to 2008-9 to form the basis of a longer term commitment
- Working with civil society is an important strategy for supporting better governance and improved leadership
 - » This is a key area of action in the Pacific Plan and is recognised by all major donors in the Pacific region

Leadership

- Key principles underpinning AusAID's investments in this area include:
 - » Long-term commitment
 - » Analysis and sensitivity to local contexts
 - » Build on what's already there
 - » Strengthen partnerships
 - » Work at multiple levels with multiple partners