



ACFID's Member e-bulletin provides analysis and commentary on current key issues for our members.

AusAID: Building on the 2010 blueprint; a reform agenda for 2015

AusAID has recently released a [reform agenda document](#), which provides information about AusAID's broad development policy and priorities to 2015. The document appears to have been written in response to the recommendations made by the [OECD's Development Assistance Committee](#) in the recent peer review of Australia's aid program. As the reform agenda document makes clear, AusAID is developing a new overarching policy framework for the Australian aid program this year and we expect some consultation with AusAID.

Pledge by the G20 leaders at the London Summit

We welcome the resources pledged by G20 leaders to developing countries, but note much more can be done. The \$1.1 trillion that the G20 Summit announced will help prevent further slowdown of the world economy and help mitigate further negative impact of the global financial crisis. We support the reaffirmation of the commitment of the G20 to achieving their overseas development assistance pledges, including Aid for Trade, debt relief and the Gleneagles commitments. A number of donors have failed to live up to their pledged increase of aid despite their repeated assurance. Whilst we welcome the commitments made at this summit, these must be delivered urgently. The G20 leaders must be held accountable for delivering on these agreements and responding to the needs of the world's poor.

ANCP changes

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Stephen Smith MP, recently approved a range of reforms to the AusAID-NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). Approved reforms to ANCP include:

- Greater funding flexibility (including multi-year funding) and changed reporting to address inefficiencies associated with the current annual planning and reporting cycle;
- Simplification of the ANCP accreditation and administration process;
- Increased focus on monitoring development effectiveness outcomes of ANCP;
- Up to 10% of ANCP funding to be eligible for use on building domestic development awareness raising activities;
- Support for small and emerging non government organisations to help improve their systems and processes prior to applying for accreditation;
- Establishing opportunities for ANCP Partnership Agreements for eligible NGOs;
- Establishment of the ANCP Innovations Fund for niche, small and medium sized NGOs.

The changes constitute significant reforms to the ANCP and are envisaged to be in place by the end of 2009. All budget matters will be announced in the Federal Budget in May and ACFID will keep agencies informed. We understand that members can expect a newsletter from AusAID's NGO and Community Engagement Section in the next couple of weeks which will provide further information on the reforms. In addition, AusAID will be providing an ANCP briefing session directly following ACFID's Member Information Forums in May (Melbourne 27 May, Sydney 28 May, Canberra 29 May). ACFID encourages all AusAID accredited agencies, and those considering accreditation, to attend.

Productivity Commission study on Contribution of NFP sector

As highlighted in last week's member e-bulletin, the Productivity Commission announced a commissioned study which will focus on improving measurement of the not-for-profit (NFP) sector's contributions and on removing obstacles to maximising its contributions to society. The Commission has now released an [issues paper](#) to assist participants in preparing submissions. It outlines a range of issues about which the Commission is seeking information. ACFID will be making a submission, please contact Kelly Bruce at kbruce@acfid.asn.au for further information.



Revised Financial Reporting Requirements for all Code Signatories

The ACFID Code of Conduct Committee's 'revised financial reporting requirements' project is well advanced. Technical feedback from RSM Bird Cameron has been incorporated into the revised draft documents. The consultation process with key stakeholders, including more than 50 *selected* and *registered* Code Signatories, has begun. Responses from stakeholders are due to reach the Code Management Team by 5 May 2009.

This project is on track for introduction of the 'revised financial reporting requirements' from 1 January 2010, noting that Signatories will be required to report in the revised reporting format from:

Financial year ends on 31 December 2010 – reporting due by end May 2011

Financial year ends on 30 June 2011 – reporting due by end November 2011

Financial year ends on 30 September 2011 – reporting due by end February 2012

Notwithstanding these forecasted timeframes, *Signatories will be encouraged to adopt the revised reporting formats sooner if possible.*

If you have not registered and would like to be part of the consultation process, please notify Greg Molyneux via email gmolyneux@acfid.asn.au or phone 02 6281 9220 to ensure your agency is directly represented in this important project.

New Compliance Self-Assessment Process

The proposed new Compliance Self-Assessment Checklist and Action Plan are the latest compliance tools developed by ACFID's Code of Conduct Committee for Code Signatories. The comprehensive Checklist and Action Plan will enable Signatories to monitor and report on their compliance with *all* aspects of the ACFID Code of Conduct (other than Annual Report and financial reporting requirements which will continue to be assessed separately by the Code Management Team). The implementation plan for *current* Signatories is to introduce the compliance self-assessment process on a voluntary basis in 2009/10 (from 1 July 2009) and then on a mandatory basis in 2010/11 (the first mandatory completion will be due in November 2010 in conjunction with the submission of Annual Report and financial reporting information).

The implementation plan for *new* applicants for Code Signatory status is to require the new applicants to complete their compliance self-assessment concurrently with their application for Code Signatory status, effective from 1 July 2009. Those new applicants that do not meet all Code compliance requirements at the time of their application will continue to be entitled to 12 months to meet all requirements.

The compliance self-assessment process will be conducted and managed on-line and will be available on-line from 1 July 2009. All Signatories are strongly encouraged to undertake an initial assessment during the financial year 2009/10, prior to it being introduced on a compulsory basis from 1 July 2010. An education session on the new compliance self-assessment process will be conducted in conjunction with ACFID's November 2009 MIF program.

If you have any questions regarding Compliance Self Assessment, please contact Helen Vogt, Program Administrator on 02 6281 9222 or at hvogt@acfid.asn.au.



Africa consultations

ACFID had a discussion with the Africa Task Force, which was established for six weeks, by the Foreign Minister following his return from Africa in late January. The Task Force, consisting of Foreign Affairs and AusAID staff, was tasked to further develop the overarching strategy for engagement with Africa over the past six weeks. The Minister indicated three pillars for this strategy: promote economic growth and prosperity through investment and trade, to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and to address peace and security challenges. This overarching strategy will now inform AusAID's strategy on development matters, which will be developed over coming months. AusAID has indicated that extensive consultations with our sector will take place. A number of issues for inclusion in the AusAID strategy are already on the table including maternal and child health, water and sanitation and food security.

In addition, late last week, a discussion between agencies and AusAID took place on the situation in Zimbabwe. AusAID has requested concept notes from agencies and seeks to fund two to three agencies for transitional programs in Zimbabwe to support the rehabilitation of water and sanitation in small towns and rural growth centres. ACFID identified a number of procedural issues with the Zimbabwe consultation which will be raised with AusAID. For further information on the Zimbabwe consultation, please contact Cetana Das at cdas@acfid.asn.au.

Web resources: Development Effectiveness Forum (DEF)

ACFID has recently updated the resources available on the Development Effectiveness Forum (DEF). The DEF provides members with a database of resources relating to aid and development effectiveness and will be updated regularly. ACFID greatly encourages contributions from members for publication. The DEF aims to support a continued focus on NGO development effectiveness within the sector. It includes publications on aid effectiveness issues and best practice in development management, policies, programs and project case studies from a range of sources including academia, bilateral and multilateral donor organisations and, most importantly, from NGOs and ACFID members themselves. Members can access the database through the ACFID website via their agency-allocated password. For more information or to provide materials for publication, contact Alex Oates at aoates@acfid.asn.au

In addition, the ACFID Secretariat is developing a wide range of publicly accessible information sheets aimed at providing background information and suggestions for further reading on a wide range of topics. The first information sheets have been uploaded and can be found on our [website](#). The first ones available are: Human Rights and Development, International Law and Human Rights, Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, Accra Agenda for Action and Global Food Crisis. If you have comments or suggestions for future information sheets, please contact Linda Rademakers at lrademakers@acfid.asn.au

Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) standard review

Last week ACFID met with a representative from the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership International (HAP) based in Geneva. HAP continues to enhance the framework of humanitarian action accountability through global agency self-regulation, compliance verification and quality assurance certification. In 2008, HAP increased its membership base and agencies undertaking baseline audits and full certification. There also is a growing interest from Australian agencies in upholding the principals of the HAP accountability standard.

In 2009, HAP will be undertaking a major review of the current standard to increase its effectiveness and will seek input from key stakeholders. ACFID looks forward to strengthening the relationship between HAP and the ACFID Code of Conduct in the coming year. ACFID will work with HAP to endorse the critical importance of upholding accountability to beneficiaries in the provision of humanitarian assistance. For information on the HAP standard, or to find out how your agency can undertake a baseline audit, see the HAP website for more information- <http://www.hapinternational.org/>



MDG Campaigning in Asia and the Pacific

Make Poverty History hosted a forum on MDG campaigning in Asia and the Pacific at ACFID with the Director and Deputy for Asia of the UN Millennium Campaign (UNMC). Initiating MDG campaigning in the Pacific region and the role Australian NGOs can play in supporting the MDGs with their Pacific partners was the central topic of discussion. UNMC's role is to encourage, inform and inspire the public's efforts to hold their governments responsible for achieving the MDGs. The [annual STAND UP](#) campaign is an important tool in this engagement. In Australia, STAND UP is facilitated by the Australian *Make Poverty History* Coalition and the related events will take place between October 16 and 18 this year.

Endorsement of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Last Friday, 3 April, the Australian government endorsed the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#). Although the Declaration is not legally binding on Australia, it sets up a framework for addressing Indigenous affairs in Australia that is based on international human rights principles and its endorsement demonstrates a level of commitment by the government to advancing Indigenous rights. The UN Special Rapporteur for Indigenous Peoples, Professor James Anaya, will visit Australia later this year. We will keep members updated about Professor Anaya's visit.

For your diary:

Monitoring and Evaluation workshop	Sydney, 29 and 30 April Melbourne, 5 and 6 May
Federal Budget	12 May 2009
Seminar: Measuring Impact for Senior Practitioners only	Melbourne 14 May
Next Member Information Forum Please note AusAID will provide an ANCP briefing directly following each MIF	Melbourne, 27 May Sydney, 28 May Canberra, 29 May

Kelly Bruce
Acting Executive Director