
**FEDERAL BUDGET
SUBMISSION TO TREASURY
2022-2023**

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Inclusive COVID-19 recovery and livelihoods package**
 - 1.1 Commit \$10 million over four years in livelihoods and resilience for people with disabilities as part of the economic recovery from COVID-19 in our region.
2. **Stepping up disability inclusion in the Pacific**
 - 2.1 Commit an initial \$200,000 in 2022-23 to the design of the *Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific*.
 - 2.2 Commit \$40 million over four years from 2023-2024 to the *Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific* to accelerate the implementation of the *Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2016-2025*.
3. **Disability Inclusion Allocation**
 - 3.1 Increase DFAT's central disability allocation to a minimum of \$14 million per annum.
 - 3.2 Develop and release a new, ambitious *Development for All* strategy.
 - 3.3 Ensure the DFAT has sufficient core departmental budget for staff and associated support costs to enable the effective implementation, monitoring and advocacy supporting disability inclusion in Canberra and at post.
 - 3.4 Release a comprehensive Australian Aid Budget Summary with the 2022-23 Federal Budget.
 - 3.5 Report a transparent accounting of the Australian Aid Budget's disability funding through separate reporting of the central disability allocation.
4. **Overall aid budget**
 - 4.1 Commit to rebuilding the Australian development cooperation budget, which includes the floor for official development assistance (ODA) levels enshrined in legislation and with a budget trajectory that ensures levels reach 0.5% ODA/GNI by 2025-26 and 0.7% ODA/GNI by 2029-30.
 - 4.2 Extend the Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative (\$525 million) and the Pacific Response Package to 2025-26 (\$600 million).
 - 4.3 Commit \$350 million to global pandemic response effort to purchase vaccines, diagnostics and treatments for low and middle-income countries.

INTRODUCTION

Including people with disabilities in development investments not only upholds Australia's values-based and strategic commitments, it also maximises value. Australia has made commitments to leave no one behind and this means ensuring that, by 2030, people with disabilities along with others will no longer experience barriers to improvements in education, employment, access to infrastructure, health, or gender equality. Disability inclusion cuts across all programs, sectors and contexts of Australian development investments. It requires effective and adequate budget to enable continued success for the Australian government in disability-inclusive development.

In order to support development cooperation activities which best address poverty, inequality and injustice, with particular reference to the needs of people with disabilities, this submission makes a series of recommendations relating to inclusive budgeting considerations for the 2022-2023 financial year.

About us

CBM Australia is a Christian, international development agency, committed to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in the poorest places in the world. In 2020, CBM Australia supported field projects in 12 countries and supported partners including governments, multilateral organisations, non-government organisations and organisations representing people with disabilities in 21 countries.

CBM Australia is proud to have a partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as part of the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID).

The Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC) is an Australian-based network focusing attention, expertise and action on disability issues in developing countries. ADDC has over 700 members including representatives from major Australian international development non-government organisations, the Australian disability movement and Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs), academia, and individuals.

CBM Australia and ADDC welcome the opportunity to make a submission to the 2022-23 federal budget process. The Australian government has been a champion of and global leader in disability inclusive development for more than a decade. Key investments within the development cooperation program have supported this role, returning significant results for minimal expense.

1. INCLUSIVE COVID-19 RECOVERY AND LIVELIHOODS PACKAGE

Reports from OPDs indicate that people with disabilities are among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. People with disabilities have experienced higher job losses, food insecurity and face immense challenges to protecting themselves from the virus.¹ Without strategic intervention, the pandemic is set to widen inequalities and push people with disabilities and their families deeper into poverty. The pandemic has validated the logic of focusing on pre-conditions to inclusion or on specific interventions with people with disabilities.² This means laying the foundations for people with disabilities to be included in all aspects of social and economic spheres of their community, for example the provision of assistive devices to enable their participation.

The Australian government made a commitment in *Partnerships for Recovery* to 'support people with disabilities, in light of the multiple layers of exclusion they face and effectively addressing the needs of the most vulnerable provides the bedrock for social cohesion.'³ In order to bring this policy commitment to fruition we recommend DFAT commit \$10 million over four years to rebuild livelihoods and increase resilience as part of economic recovery in the region.

Table 1: Inclusive economic recovery

Investment	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25	Total
1. Inclusive economic recovery	\$4m	\$2m	\$2m	\$2m	\$10m

CBM and ADDC propose that funding is programmed directly to NGOs with a minimum of 25% funded directly to local OPDs. We propose the distribution of the funding places priority on the pillars of the *Partnerships for Recovery* strategy with cross cutting initiatives that ensure the foundations are in place for people with disabilities to engage, such as consulting on program design with people with disabilities. This could include:

- i *Economic recovery*: Job creation investments include specific streams for people with disabilities.
- ii *Stability*: Ensure social protection schemes are accessible to people with disabilities and account for the specific needs and additional cost of disability.

Recommendation

1. Inclusive COVID-19 recovery and livelihoods package

1.1 Commit \$10 million over four years in livelihoods and resilience for people with disabilities as part of the economic recovery from COVID-19 in our region.

¹ E.g. see Disability Right Monitor (2020) [Disability rights during the pandemic: A global report on findings of the COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor](#)

² Pacific Disability Forum, *Towards an Inclusive and Resilient Pacific: Strategic Plan 2021-2025*, p.3.

³ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2020), *Partnerships for Recovery: Australia's COVID-19 Development Response*, p.11.

2. STEPPING UP DISABILITY INCLUSION IN THE PACIFIC

CBM Australia and ADDC recommend Australia commits to fund the *Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific (PIP)* to accelerate the implementation of the *Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2016-2025 (PFRPD)*⁴ and ensure pre-conditions are in place for the effective inclusion of people with disabilities. An initial commitment of \$200,000 in 2022-23 is required to support the design of PIP. Followed by a commitment of \$40million over four years for implementation.

Table 2: Design and Implementation of the Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific (PIP)

Investment	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	Total
2a. Design – Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific	\$200,000	-	-	-		\$200,000
2b. Implementation – Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific	-	\$10m	\$10m	\$10m	\$10m	\$40m

The PIP proposal sets out a model for a regional partnership that requires further development with stakeholders and finalisation during a design phase. PIP would include four components:

1 - Disability Inclusion Priority Initiatives - This component would seek to address some key preconditions to inclusion applicable for all Pacific Island Countries (PICs).

2 – Technical Advice and Research - This component would provide coordinated research or technical advice in response to requests from PICs and OPDs. For example, specialist advice in relation to data collection and analysis and approaches to inclusive education and employment.

3 –Disability Services Workforce Planning and Development - Recognising the shortage of a skilled workforce for disability service provision, this component could include both strategic volunteer placements combined with support for coordinated workforce development and capacity strengthening of disability professionals.

4 – PFRPD Implementation Fund - This would be the largest component in financial terms and would provide funding for PICs to invest in scaling up support for pilot initiatives in key areas. We proposed that access to funds under this component would require a joint application from government and civil society.

The initial proposal in 2022-23 is for \$200,000 in to fund a design process. Extensive consultation with PICs and OPDs would be critical to access understanding of existing gaps and opportunities, wide expertise and ensure any partnership found widespread support. We propose that the design team explored learning from similar funds and look for robust and inclusive governance mechanisms. CBM Australia and ADDC urge DFAT to utilise its

⁴ For more information on the Pacific Framework on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, see <https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/PFRPD.pdf>

leadership on disability and convening ability to rally support from other donors as part of the design phase.

Rationale

The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF)⁵ estimates there are 1.7 million people with disabilities in the Pacific. PICs have expressed commitment towards addressing the barriers faced by people with disabilities. Governments in the region have jointly adopted the PFRPD. PICs expenditures dedicated to people with disabilities is about 0.1 per cent of GDP compared with 2.2 per cent on average in European Union countries⁶, with a heavy reliance on ODA to fund many of the disability inclusion initiatives and costs.⁷

Systemic change will only come about through intentional implementation of the PFRDP, requiring sustained ongoing increases in domestic resource allocation, alongside significant increase ODA contributions and overarching, coordinated programming that will address the existing gaps in disability inclusive development.

A pooled, Pacific partnership to support PFRPD will provide greater coordination of resources and priorities, better sharing of lessons from examples of good practice and economies of scale for service provision. A strong partnership approach – seeking buy-in from a range of donors, implementing partners and PIC governments - will enhance coordination, scale and efficient allocation of resources.

Recommendations

2. Stepping up disability inclusion in the Pacific

2.1 Commit an initial \$200,000 in 2021-22 to the design of the *Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific*.

2.2 Commit \$40 million over four years from 2023-2024 to the *Partnership for an Inclusive Pacific* to accelerate the *Implementation of the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2016-2025*.

3. DISABILITY INCLUSION ALLOCATION

CBM Australia and ADDC recommend that DFAT increase its central disability allocation to a minimum of \$14 million per annum. This will ensure Australia can meet its commitments to including people with disabilities in all regional COVID-19 response and recovery and international development programming.

⁵ PDF is the regional peak body on disability - established by people with disabilities themselves, their representative organisations and like-minded partners in 2002. DFAT has been a key funding partner of PDF since it was founded.

⁶Cote, A. and Alexandre Cote and Balsubramanian, M. The New Normal: Getting Governments to spend [more and better] for [inclusion] of all persons with disabilities. May 2019. Available from <https://asksource.info/sites/all/modules/pubdnt/pubdnt.php?fid=1239>

⁷ Pacific Disability Forum (2018) *SDG-CRPD Monitoring Report*, available from https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/pdf_sdg.crpdp_report_.pdf p.1.

Table 3: DFAT’s Central Disability Allocation

Investment	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
DFAT’s central disability allocation	\$14m	\$14.4m	\$14.8m	\$15.2m

In the 2020-21 and 2021-2022 budget, DFAT’s central disability allocation was cut from a long-standing figure of \$12.9 million to \$9.6 million. In 2021-2022 a retrospective amount was added at the conclusion of the financial year bringing the total up to \$12.1 million. These cuts are not consistent with maintaining Australia’s overall leadership position.

While a relatively modest amount in the overall aid budget, this investment is significant in providing core resources for disability inclusion across the aid program. This central allocation to disability inclusion is distinct from disability funding in mainstream programs and disability specific programming, however it is crucially supports these. The support, partnerships, technical expertise, and global leadership this central allocation leverages, is foundational to enabling DFAT to implement adequate disability inclusion in its programming.

DFAT’s central disability inclusion allocation is also crucial to maintaining Australia’s strong credibility and reputation for being an ambitious global leader in disability inclusive development. The 2017 Office of Development Effectiveness evaluation confirmed that Australia is seen as an influential and credible leader in this field.⁸ However, this report cautioned that ongoing investment in disability is required to secure Australia’s hard-won wins and strong standing in disability inclusion. Furthermore, 2022 will be a particularly critical year in disability inclusion policy, with the conclusion of the current *Development for All* strategy in 2021. It is critical a new *Development for All* strategy is developed in 2022 and properly funded.

The development and implementation of these policy priorities is only as effective as the capacity of those charged with implementing them. We therefore call for DFAT to increase the core departmental budget available for associated staff and support costs to enable the effective development and implementation of the next iteration of the *Development for All* strategy, both in Canberra and at post.

CBM Australia and ADDC recommend that Australia releases a comprehensive Australian Aid Budget Summary with the 2022-23 Federal Budget. In addition, there should be transparent accounting of the Australian Aid Budget’s disability funding through separate reporting of its central disability allocation.

After the decision to end the Ministerial Statement on Australia’s development assistance program (Blue Book) in 2014-15 and some years of variable budget reporting, in 2016-17 DFAT introduced a comprehensive departmental summary the Australian Aid Budget (Orange Book). This detailed information on country, regional and global programs is an important public accountability and transparency measure. While CBM and ADDC recognise that 2020

⁸ Office of Development Effectiveness (2017) [Unfinished Business: Evaluation of Australian Advocacy for Disability Inclusive Development](#).

has been a disrupted year, it was unfortunate that the 2020-21 budget did not include a detailed summary. This practice should be resumed in 2022-23, including as much detailed information as possible on both the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years. This must be coupled with a return to the more comprehensive reporting on the overall performance of the aid program, as well as country and regional programs.

In 2016-17 (\$12.9m) and 2017-18 (\$12.9m) the departmental summary included a transparent breakdown of DFAT's central disability budget. However, in 2018-19 this practice ceased with disability funding being incorporated into the 'other sectoral programs' category. The central disability allocation was then cut in 2020-21 budget by 25 per cent. As a leader in disability-inclusive development, Australia should report separately its core disability programming.

Recommendations

3. Disability Inclusion Allocation

- 3.1 Increase DFAT's central disability allocation to a minimum of \$14 million per annum.
- 3.2 Develop and release a new, ambitious *Development for All* strategy.
- 3.3 Ensure the DFAT has sufficient core departmental budget for staff and associated support costs to enable the effective implementation, monitoring and advocacy supporting disability inclusion in Canberra and at post.
- 3.4 Release a comprehensive Australian Aid Budget Summary with the 2022-23 Federal Budget.
- 3.5 Report a transparent accounting of the Australian Aid Budget's disability funding through separate reporting of the central disability allocation.

4. OVERALL AID BUDGET

CBM Australia and ADDC recommend that Australia commits to rebuilding the Australian development cooperation budget, which includes a floor for ODA levels enshrined in legislation and with a budget trajectory that ensures levels reach 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) by 2030. We also recommend that Australia increase its current COVID-19 ODA commitments by \$1.545 billion across the forward estimates in the 2022-23 budget.

Since the 2019 election, the Government has implemented further cuts, so that the core aid program is now \$4 billion. While the Australian government made a number of important commitments to respond and fight COVID-19 in our region, none of these new announcements represent a permanent increase in Australia's international development program.

Table 4: Aid Budget Investments

Investment	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total
1. VAHSI and PRP	\$150m	\$325m	\$325m	\$325m	\$1,125m
2. COVAX & ACT-A	\$175m	\$175m	-	-	\$350m

The scale of the pandemic recovery effort required in our region is enormous, and to meet the need for the sake of security, stability and human rights in our region, these new investments from the Australian government need to be permanent and ongoing. In the mid-2000s, when the region suffered a devastating natural disaster in the Asian tsunami, there was a bipartisan commitment to stand with the region through a decade long recovery. The global pandemic requires a similar bipartisan commitment to investment. The COVID-19 pandemic will not be over for anyone until it is over for everyone. We must work collectively together to recover and rebuild. The new COVID-19 regional funding, the Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative and the Pacific Response Package should be extended out to 2025-26. This would provide time to assess the trajectory for a permanent increase.

Alongside the regional commitments, Australia should also step up its commitment to the global effort to end COVID-19 for all. This should include a commitment to the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator and the COVAX Facility of \$350 million. Combined these two mechanisms are providing global pandemic response effort to purchase vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments for low and middle-income countries.

Recommendations:

4. Overall aid budget

4.1 Commit to rebuilding the Australian development cooperation budget, which includes the floor for official development assistance (ODA) levels enshrined in legislation and with a budget trajectory that ensures levels reach 0.5% ODA/GNI by 2025-26 and 0.7% ODA/GNI by 2029-30.

4.3 Extend the Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative (\$525 million) and the Pacific Response Package to 2025-26 (\$600 million).

4.4 Commit \$350 million to global pandemic response effort to purchase vaccines, diagnostics and treatments for low and middle-income countries.