



Australian High Commission

Papua New Guinea



Summary of Australia's development assistance to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville

As agreed with the Papua New Guinea Government through the 2014 PNG Aid Assessment, Australia has gradually increased its support to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville over the past year.

In 2014–15, Australia provided around K85.5 million (A\$40.7 million) in assistance to Bougainville, including K6.3 million in support of Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) elections. Australia's assistance is aimed at helping the PNG Government and ABG to implement the Bougainville Peace Agreement and supporting both governments to improve autonomy arrangements and bolster peace and stability & gender equality.

Australia's development assistance to Bougainville is agreed under the PNG-Australia Partnership for Development. The bulk of Australia's support is aimed at improving services in health, education, transport infrastructure and law and justice. Beyond service delivery, in 2014–15 Australia also provided assistance in the areas of governance, elections, economic development, peace building and youth programs.

Development Assistance by Program—2014–15

Health

(approximately K6.5 million in 2014–15)

Australia supported the ABG Department of Health to develop long-term policies, plans and systems to deliver quality health services to Bougainvilleans. It also supported community health worker training, procurement and distribution of maternal and child health equipment, support for health infrastructure, and prevention and control of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

Education (approximately K10.5 million in 2014–15)

Australia's education support in Bougainville included adult literacy, teacher training and capacity building for the ABG Department of Education. Scoping work commenced for construction of 30 double classroom school kit sets, which will be completed in by the beginning of the 2016 school year.

Transport infrastructure

(approximately K17.9 million in 2014–15)

Australia maintained 403 kilometres of Bougainville's 600 kilometres main road network. This included the coastal trunk road between Kokopau and Buin, and other roads in central and south Bougainville. A number of major sealing projects were also progressed in Central Bougainville. About 80 per cent of the population and school and health facilities are within approximately seven kilometres of the roads Australia maintains.

Elections (approximately K6.3 million in 2014–15)

Australia supported the preparation and conduct of the ABG general election. This included technical assistance to the Office of the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner, procurement of election-related materials (ballot papers and IT equipment), and funding for the UN to train women candidates and scrutineers, coordinate election observers, and assist with electoral dispute resolution.



Law and justice

(approximately K6.9 million in 2014–15)

The PNG-Australia Law and Justice Partnership supported Bougainville with an infrastructure program that included police barracks in Arawa and Buin, as well as technical assistance and capacity building. The Pre Recruit Education Program was introduced, which increases young Bougainvillians' education to meet the equivalent education standard for formal entry into the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary's Bomana Police Training College.

Governance and economic development (approximately K15.1 million in 2014–15)

Australia provided advisory support to the ABG in project management, human resources, policy formulation, legislative drafting and public financial management. Other governance projects supported by Australia to assist the ABG and PNG governments implement autonomy arrangements included community radio and the Bougainville Bulletin newspaper, government infrastructure, recruitment of public servants and strengthening of local government. Direct interventions to promote private sector engagement, particularly in the cocoa industry, were a focus of our support in 2014–15.

Peace building

(approximately K6.3 million in 2014–15)

In 2014–15, Australia continued to provide support to the Bougainville Peace Building Program, which is a joint initiative co-funded by Australia and the ABG. The program focused on reconciliation issues and grievances between groups and individuals stemming from the Bougainville Crisis, and supporting the establishment of District Peace and Security Committees across the central and south regions.

Gender

(approximately K6.5 million in 2014–15)

Australia increased its support for programs aimed at improving gender equality in Bougainville. This included supporting the Nazareth Centre to provide counselling, crisis services and advocacy against gender based violence, and working with UNICEF and League Bilong Laif on education programs in schools on gender equality. Support was also provided to build the capacity of the Bougainville Women's Federation to advocate on gender issues.

Youth

(approximately K9.6 million in 2014–15)

Australian-funded NGOs are commencing activities to increase opportunities for Bougainville's young people to enable them to engage meaningfully in government and increase their economic development opportunities. These activities include literacy courses, life and business skills training, support for better access to micro-finance, and youth leadership programs.

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