

## Economic & Public Sector Program

Strengthening key government institutions to support equitable service delivery to the men, women and children of Papua New Guinea

### **AUSAID GRANTS TO KEY PNG AGENCIES**

AusAID will provide over K700,000 in grants through its Economic and Public Sector Program (EPSP) to support the activities of three PNG agencies.

Mr James Hall, who has recently arrived in PNG to take up the position of Deputy Head of the Australian Aid Program and the Chief Secretary Manasupe Zurenuoc made the grants announcement at Morauta House today (Friday).

Mr Zurenuoc, who is also the Chairman of the EPSP Program Management Group, said the grants were designed to help deliver fair, effective and accessible services to the people of PNG.

“EPSP is primarily focussed on improving the governance of the PNG institutions that deliver services to our people, so it is a very important program. The grants we have announced today will have a positive impact in the higher education sector, the legal sectors and help a new organisation, the PNG Association of Professional Evaluators, expand its membership and reach,” Mr Zurenuoc said.

Mr Hall said it was critical that Australia’s support for better governance in PNG resulted in tangible improvements for people at the district and provincial level.

“AusAID is right behind PNG’s efforts to improve the operation of their key institutions. The PNG Office of Higher Education will receive almost K500,000 to help OHE staff assess the quality of teaching standards in tertiary education institutions. This is a critical step in lifting the quality of teaching at these institutions,” Mr Hall said.

The Office of State Solicitor in the Department for Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) will receive two grants totalling K140,000 to provide and attend legal workshops in regional areas. DJAG identified that Provincial and Local Level Governments received little or no legal support. This grant will ensure that communities in rural and remote areas get access to better legal advice.

The PNG Association of Professional Evaluators is a not for profit organisation that promotes good monitoring and evaluation practices. The Association will receive K75,000 to showcase examples of good evaluation by PNG agencies and for their national conference which will help build their membership and influence.

**ENDS**