



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION PORT MORESBY

AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORT FOR TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL INITIATIVES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Overview

- Australia is supporting the Government of Papua New Guinea's (GoPNG) long term goal to significantly reduce morbidity and mortality from tuberculosis (TB) including multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB).
- Targeting MDR TB is in line with national PNG TB targets given the high burden and international and local health security risks. Both governments have agreed that the most sustainable approach is to build the capacity to treat TB in PNG in the context of broader PNG health system improvements.
- Accordingly, Australia is providing a multifaceted support package, which includes community engagement programs, workforce strengthening, technical assistance, infrastructure, and laboratory and supply chain assistance.
- Australia has committed \$60 million for tuberculosis (TB) control initiatives in Papua New Guinea (PNG) over 2011 – 2017, which includes the additional \$15 million announced by the Australian Foreign Minister in February 2015.
 - \$44.7 million has been committed to Western Province (since 2011), including \$5 million for the response to drug-resistant tuberculosis
 - \$18.8 Million has been spent since 2011
 - \$5.6 million is currently allocated for 15/16
 - *Activities in Western Province are marked below with an asterisk*
 - \$15.3 million has been committed to the National Capital District (NCD) and National Response, including \$10 million over 2015- 2017 for the response to drug-resistant tuberculosis
 - \$3.7 million has been spent since 2011
 - 15/16 spending is currently being discussed with partners
- This package of support has been developed in consultation with the National Department of Health, Provincial governments and with oversight from the World Health Organization. The package also takes into account findings from the 2014 National Tuberculosis Program review.
- World Health Organization monitoring, including a review by an international committee of experts in May 2015, indicate the package is well targeted and effective.

Community Engagement

- World Vision received \$3.17 million to implement the 'Stop TB in Western Province' initiative from 2012-15. This program has: *
 - Trained 56 health workers and 123 community treatment supporters to supervise the World Health Organization's Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) treatment standard across North, Middle and South Fly Districts.
 - Reached over 68,000 people in Western Province with TB Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilisation activities.
- Australia has also funded the procurement and operational costs of a sea ambulance (Medics Queen) and two banana boats to access difficult to reach communities in the Middle and South Fly Districts. *
 - These vessels have conducted over 163 outreach visits since 2012.

Workforce

- In Western Province, Australia has funded key health workforce positions to strengthen the TB response. These positions include: *
 - Three TB medical officers for Daru, South Fly;
 - Provincial TB Physician
 - Provincial health adviser;
 - Provincial TB coordinator; and
 - District TB coordinators in North South and Middle Fly.
- Australia is supporting the Government of PNG to undertake an international recruitment for the Daru General Hospital CEO. *
- Australia has partnered with the World Health Organization to strengthen the TB response workforce. Under this \$8.8 million partnership, the World Health Organization provides:
 - A TB Medical Officer to provide technical support and advice to the National Department of Health;
 - An international drug-resistant tuberculosis specialist who commenced in June 2015 to provide training and clinical services over 2015 to 2017;
 - Strengthening of laboratory capacity of Port Moresby-based Central Public Health Laboratory and provincial laboratories;
 - Co-financing of TB research at the Institute of Medical Research; and
 - Co-financed the 2014 external review of PNG's National Tuberculosis Program. This review identified the three hotspots for TB transmission NCD, Gulf and Western Province.
- Australia has recruited and funded an international public health adviser and an international reference laboratory adviser both based in Port Moresby, in support of the National Tuberculosis Program.

Technical Support

- Australia provided \$1.59 million to the Burnet Institute in 2014-15 to provide technical expertise for the emergency response to drug-resistant tuberculosis in Western Province announced by the GoPNG in June 2014. *
- Australia's broader technical support includes:
 - A national TB drug-resistance survey in 2013-2014 completed in June 2015. The survey confirms an MDR-TB prevalence rate of 2.7% for new cases with the highest burden in Daru Western Province.
 - Technical and quality reforms at the Central Public Health Laboratory.

Health Infrastructure

- Australia constructed a \$4.3 million purpose-built 22-bed TB ward at Daru General Hospital. This was opened in 2013 and is being fully utilised. *
- Australia has committed a further \$10 million towards the construction of new staff accommodation and refurbishment of Daru General Hospital over 2014-2017. *
 - The scoping phase is completed and agreement has been reached with stakeholders on key design priorities.
 - It is anticipated that the tender for the first stage of works (sanitation, sewerage and laboratory upgrade) will be advertised in August/September 2015.
- Australia has also committed \$10 million towards the construction of a new health facility and staff housing at Mabadawan, a Torres Strait Treaty Village in South Fly. *
 - It is expected the tender for construction will be advertised in August 2015.

Medical Supplies, Laboratory and Supply Chain Management

- On the request of the GoPNG, Australia procured \$2.4 million of emergency TB and drug-resistant tuberculosis medicines during 2013-14 to combat drug stock outs. *
- In 2012, Australia procured \$560,000 of medical equipment for Daru Hospital, including: *
 - A digital X-ray unit and associated renovation of X-ray room;
 - A GeneXpert diagnostic machine to detect drug resistant tuberculosis within 2 hours; and
 - A biochemistry and haematology (blood) analyser, defibrillator and ECG machine.
- Australia has committed \$492,000 through the Queensland Mycobacterium Reference Laboratory to provide additional drug-resistance testing support from 2012-15.
 - The Burnet Institute manages a weekly shipment of patient samples to the Queensland Mycobacterium Reference Laboratory.
 - 547 samples have been received and processed in 2015.
 - A total of 398 samples were tested between 1 July 2013 and 31 December 2014.

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