



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

ODE Evaluation of the AVID Program: DFAT's management response

**Presented by: Gary Powell, Assistant Secretary NGOs and
Volunteers Branch, DFAT**



AVID program was launched in May 2011 to bring four separate Australian Government funded volunteer programs together under one banner.

AVID provides Australians the opportunity to:

- work in developing countries
- foster people-people links and mutual understanding
- share knowledge and skills
- be the public face of Australia's aid efforts

The Australian Government works closely with three experienced partner organisations to deliver the AVID program.



AVID snapshot: 2012-13

- Budget \$58.5 million (**1 per cent** of total ODA)
- Supported **1849** volunteers - 1046 of these new in 2012-13, exceeding the government target of 1000
- Operated in **42** countries (85 per cent in **Asia-Pacific**)
- **AVID Fact Sheet 2012-13** provides information on volunteer demographics



Key areas of work



Number of host organisations

1290

Type of host organisation



Number of Australian Partner Organisations

162



ODE Review of the AVID program

- Evaluation confirms that AVID is making an **effective contribution** to Australian and partner government development objectives and is an effective public diplomacy mechanism
- The report provides a **welcome contribution** to AVID program improvement
- The Minister has **agreed to DFAT's management response** to the report's seven recommendations.



Recommendation 1: Program consolidation

Response: agreed

Status: in-progress

- AVID program logic consultations commenced in mid-2013
 - revised program objectives to be finalised by 1 July 2014
- Retirement of the AYAD brand is being progressed
 - all youth volunteers recruited and managed under a single AVID brand by 1 July 2014
 - AYADs recruited up to 30 June 2015 to continue as AYADs until completion of their assignments



Recommendation 2: Program efficiency

Response: agreed

Status: in-progress

- DFAT has lead a cost efficiency initiative over the last 12 months
 - Significant program savings found in 2012-13 with further savings expected in 2013-14
- Consolidation of AVID footprint in negotiation with DFAT Posts and program partners
 - Focus of the program in Asia-Pacific-Indian Ocean region in line with government priorities by 30 June 2015
 - Reduction from 42 countries to around 35 countries



Recommendation 3: Post involvement

Response: agreed

Status: in-progress

- Volunteer planning process improved in 2012-13, with increased opportunity for DFAT Posts to align volunteer assignments with priority sectors and host organisations
- Improving communication and consultation with Posts
 - Survey undertaken in 2013 to gauge Post views on further improvements to planning process

Recommendation 4: In-country support networks

Response: agreed

Status: in-progress

- Core Partners exploring the expansion of in-country workshops involving volunteers, in-country management, DFAT Posts and host organisations
- Core Partners piloting technology to facilitate networking opportunities and effectiveness



Recommendation 5: Refocus on capacity development

Response: agreed

Status: in-progress

- Each AVID core partner has an approach to capacity development in place and long-term agreements with host organisations are being progressively implemented
- Assignment guidelines to be clarified to reflect the move away from the pre-AVID counterpart-training model in 2014-15.

Recommendation 6: Marketing and promoting the AVID brand

Response: agreed

Status: planned

- DFAT will seek expert advice on promoting a single program brand once objectives and program logic are agreed (see Recommendation 1).



Recommendation 7: Simplified and effective AVID M&E

Response: agreed

Status: in-progress

- DFAT is leading the redesign of the AVID M&E framework
- Draft framework in place by 30 June 2014
- DFAT and core partners have already delivered significantly improved program performance information for 2012-13



AVID Kitchen Trainer Ruth Byham, running a commercial cooking class for trainees at the KOTO training centre, Ho Chi Minh City.

Photo: Harjono Djyobisono/Australian Volunteers International



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