

Worksheet

Australia's global roles and responsibilities

Australia has global roles and responsibilities. For example, Australia plays an international role in exchange programs, peacekeeping, election monitoring, health programs and disaster management.

Your group is called the Cabinet. It is made up of the Prime Minister and top-level ministers. You are looking at Australia's roles and responsibilities as a global nation. Your government departments have advised you on some ways Australia has been involved in the international community (see overleaf). As a group, decide where your priorities lie and which projects you will participate in.

Using the information provided, consider the following questions:

- Which projects are the most beneficial for Australia, the countries involved and the international community?
- Which projects should have priority, and why?
- Which projects will you allocate money to, and for how long?

Be prepared to explain your conclusions to the class.

Below are examples of ways Australia has been involved in international projects. Examine and analyse these, keeping in mind the questions you have to consider.

Exchange programs

The New Colombo Plan encourages Australian university students to learn more about the Indo-Pacific by organising scholarships to study in other countries in the region.

tinyurl.com/NewColombo

Peacekeeping

The Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) is a mission that has been majority-funded and led by Australia. The aims of the mission have been to assist Solomon Islands to recover from a time of civil unrest by restoring law and order, reducing corruption, rebuilding government institutions and services, and helping rebuild the Solomon Islands economy.

www.ramsi.org

Australian defence force personnel and police officers participated in various peacekeeping missions in East Timor from 1999 to 2013 to assist East Timor safely transition to independence from Indonesia.

tinyurl.com/awm-peacekeeping

Election monitoring

Since 1989, officers from the Australian Electoral Commission have participated in supervising elections in other countries, such as Namibia and Cambodia, as a contribution to international peace and stability.

tinyurl.com/AECInternational

Health programs

Australia participates in various health programs in Papua New Guinea, such as to improve the detection, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and to work towards the goal of eliminating malaria.

tinyurl.com/PNGhealth

Australia participates in a program in Pakistan to improve maternal, newborn and child health, particularly in regions where these groups are at high risk of poor health.

tinyurl.com/Pakhealth

Disaster management

Since Vanuatu was struck by Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015, Australia has provided immediate aid to help people survive the direct after-effects and give longer-term support to build cyclone-resilient infrastructure.

tinyurl.com/Vandevil