

Finding solutions to the law and order problems in PNG is a priority for the Australia - Papua New Guinea aid program. A strong law and justice system is vital for the safety and security of all Papua New Guineans and is a necessary condition for PNG's continued economic and social development.

Australia supports PNG's National Law and Justice Policy which recognises the importance of key agencies working with each other, with communities and with the private sector to deal with law and justice problems. Support is focused on improving the effectiveness of the deterrence system, crime prevention and restorative justice.

Through the aid program, Australia has invested more than K440 million over the last 10 years in training, capacity building, infrastructure and other support for Corrective Institutions Services, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, the Department of Justice and Attorney General, the Ombudsman Commission and the Judiciary and Magistracy.

The recently agreed Enhanced Cooperation Package provides additional support to PNG to promote economic stability and growth. The Package includes support in economic management, public sector reform, border and international transport security as well as in policing and law and justice. Support to policing and law and justice through the Enhanced Cooperation Package compliments the aid program's existing support to the law and justice sector, including through the Law and Justice Sector Program, the Justice Advisory Group and the RPNGC Project.

LAW AND JUSTICE SECTOR PROGRAM

Contribution: A\$150 million or K330 million
Duration: 2002 to 2007

The Law and Justice Sector Program is the primary way through which Australia's law and justice assistance is delivered in PNG to promote the rule of law, and to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the law and justice system.

Australia's assistance to law and justice in PNG is fostering a sector wide approach, rather than focusing on specific and separate Law and Justice agencies. This means targeting outcomes that are jointly agreed and prioritised by the Governments of PNG and Australia and providing flexible support to a range of Law and Justice agencies and community organisations in accordance with needs and priorities.

JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP

Contribution: A\$2million or K4.4 million
Duration: Initially 2002 - 2005

The Justice Advisory Group provides independent, expert advice to both the Governments of PNG and Australia on law and justice sector performance and opportunities for reform. It also provides specialist technical advice on policy, management and operational matters.

The increased emphasis on monitoring outcomes and the performance of the law and justice system will help both Governments improve the quality of management and planning decisions, and to have these based on sound information.

RPNGC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASE III

Contribution: A\$57 million or K125 million
Duration: March 2000 - 2005

This five year project builds on the achievements of 12 years of Australian assistance to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. The project has improved the capability of the RPNGC to enforce the law effectively, in an impartial manner and to work with the community to preserve peace and good order, though much remains to be done.

The key areas of support include community policing, human resource management including discipline processes, infrastructure refurbishment, improved systems and training to improve RPNGC capacity to analyse, prevent, investigate and prosecute crime.

ENHANCED COOPERATION PACKAGE: POLICING, LAW & JUSTICE

Contribution: A\$905 million or K2 billion

Duration: 2004 - 2009

The Enhanced Cooperation Package was agreed at the annual Ministerial Forum between the Governments of Australia and PNG for Australian officials to work in key areas of the PNG Government, with a focus on building capacity and strengthening local systems.

In the Law and Justice sector, this will include the placement of up to 230 Australian police personnel initially in Port Moresby and then in Lae, Mt. Hagen and on the Highlands Highway, Enga, the Southern Highlands and Bougainville. In addition to personnel, assistance to the RPNGC includes equipment and training, to ensure that the capacity of the RPNGC is boosted.

The Enhanced Cooperation Package also includes the placement of up to 18 Australian law and justice officials in key Departments, including the position of Solicitor General and three litigation lawyers in the Solicitor General's office, five prosecutors in the Prosecutor's Office, two correctional service managers, four expatriate judges appointed to the National and Supreme Court, a Senior Deputy Registrar for the National Court Registry, one lawyer for the Department of Justice and one lawyer for law reform. These high-level placements are expected to have a significant impact in boosting the performance of these Agencies.