Outcomes:

A student:

5.2 analyses, organises and synthesises geographical information

5.3 selects and uses appropriate written, oral and graphic forms to communicate geographical information

5.4 selects and applies appropriate geographical tools

5.7 analyses the impacts of different perspectives on geographical issues at local, national and global scales

5.8 accounts for differences within and between Australian communities

5.9 explains Australia’s links with other countries and its role in the global community

5.10 applies geographical knowledge, understanding and skills with knowledge of civics to demonstrate informed and active citizenship.

Geographical Tools

Maps
- use various types of maps and flow charts
- describe and explain relationships on a map
- distinguish between large-scale and small-scale maps

Graphs and Statistics
- construct and interpret divided bar and column graphs, and composite line graphs
- recognise and account for change using statistical data

Photographs
- collect and use digital images

Text types
- discussion
- exposition

ICT
- design and create a multimedia presentation or webpage to communicate geographical information to a particular audience, including maps and diagrams as appropriate
- critically analyse a website, including the ethics of the site
- access, collect and interpret electronic information
Aid

Aid is also referred to as foreign aid, overseas aid or international aid.

You already know a great deal about the concept of aid because you have been giving assistance to your friends and family for a long time. It is also possible that you want to help people in need even though they may not be close friends or acquaintances. Why would you do this? Because they need help and you are in a position to help them. This simple value is at the core of foreign aid.

Brainstorm what you know about foreign aid.
Some questions to get you thinking:

★ What is foreign aid?
★ What sort of aid would be most effective?
★ Who are the people who would most need aid?
★ Who is responsible for implementing Australia’s aid program?

Organise the brainstorm into a PMI chart about Australia’s foreign aid.

P - Plus
M - Minus
I – Interesting

Write the questions on butcher’s paper or cards and place them on the wall. Cross them out as you find the answers throughout the unit.

It is important to visit the Australian Government’s foreign aid website at www.AusAID.gov.au to fully appreciate the range of Australian foreign aid. This aid includes things like:

★ $3 million in 2009 for flood relief in Fiji
★ $5 million in 2008 to fund humanitarian projects in Ethiopia such as the Hamlin Fistula College
★ $165 million over three years to help train Iraqi agricultural students to help tackle soil salinity
★ an additional $300 million will be spent from 2008 to 2011 to improve access to fresh water in the Asia-Pacific region.

It is a long list. However, the core business for Australia’s overseas development assistance program is in the Asia-Pacific region. The former Australian prime minister, Kevin Rudd, signed Pacific Partnerships for Development with the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa and Papua New Guinea. The partnership development agreement with Kiribati, for example, focuses on improving basic education, developing workforce skills and improving growth and economic management.
Of course the reason you have probably never heard of obstetric fistula is because it simply does not exist in developed countries like Australia. In countries like Australia, women have access to nutritious food and sophisticated medical facilities so that they never experience this problem. **Humanitarian aid** is concerned with helping people overcome problems that make their lives very difficult. Humanitarian aid is concerned with promoting human welfare. It is the aid we give to people who have suffered in a tsunami or earthquake to try and make their lives more comfortable.

There are two types of foreign aid. The first type is humanitarian aid and the second type is development assistance. Most of Australia’s foreign aid is spent on development assistance. **Development assistance** is government-to-government assistance designed to help developing countries eliminate poverty. It is aid money spent to help develop the country’s infrastructure – its roads, ports, health systems, education systems and public administration.
Worksheet 7.1 Nature of Aid

1. Define the following terms and provide two examples of each.

   Humanitarian Aid
   - 
   - 

   Development Assistance
   - 
   - 

2. The bar below is divided into segments of 10. Of the total amount of money spent on aid, shade in the proportion that Australia spends on
   - humanitarian aid
   - development assistance

   10
   50
   100%

3. List 6 countries that Australia provides aid to.
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 

4. Based on what you have read so far, propose reasons why we give aid to these countries.
Australia’s foreign aid program is centred on the ____________ region although important ____________ have been established with countries in Africa. Australia’s foreign aid program aims to ______________ poorer nations with their economic ________________ and to help them deal with situations like natural _________________. In 2009/10 Australia spent $4.3b on foreign aid. The government hopes to ______________ this amount to $8-9b by 2014, which brings the total to 0.5% of Gross National Income. There are ________________ types of aid in Australia’s foreign aid program; ________________ aid and ________________ aid.

The most ________________ form of aid is development aid. Development aid is the government-to-__________ aid between the Australian government and, for example, the governments of Papua New Guinea and ________________. This aid is mainly spent to develop the ________________ in the country. The infrastructure refers to things like ____________, schools and ____________ facilities. Australia provides, for example, funding for textbooks, ________________ training and the ________________ of children in these countries. Just on 90% of Australia’s foreign aid program is spent on development aid. The ________________ between Australia and the nation receiving the aid sets out each country’s obligations and ________________ in what are called ‘Partnership Agreements for Development’.

Humanitarian aid is also important. Humanitarian aid aims at reducing human ________________. Both the Australian government (through ________________) and non-government organisations (NGOs), such as ________________ provide humanitarian aid. The Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia and the 2009 ________________ in Samoa are typical humanitarian ________________. Only about ____% of Australian government aid funds are spent on humanitarian aid. However, when there are ________________ disasters such as the Indonesian tsunami, the Australia ________________ provides a great deal of the funding by directly ________________ to the NGOs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10</th>
<th>donating</th>
<th>major</th>
<th>significant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>government</td>
<td>medical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>assist</td>
<td>humanitarian</td>
<td>programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AusAid</td>
<td>immunisation</td>
<td>public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>development</td>
<td>increase</td>
<td>responsibilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>development</td>
<td>infrastructure</td>
<td>roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>disasters</td>
<td>links</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Extension Activities:
1. Create a media file by collecting recent stories relating to aid distribution.
2. Australia has established Aid links with many nations. Choose one or many of these countries for the following activities
   a) Listen to music from these places.
   b) Ask students from these countries or those who have travelled to them to share stories about their experience.
   c) Play a game of celebrity heads using the names of these nations.
The Australian Government implements its overseas aid programs through a government agency called AusAID (www.AusAID.gov.au). It describes its role as ‘assisting developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, in line with Australia’s national interest’.

There are two ways AusAID implements its aid programs. The most important is through government-to-government aid programs. In the past this was delivered as a cash payment to the government of the country receiving the aid. However, there was a great deal of corruption and a lot of the aid money was wasted or misused. There is now an increasing emphasis on good governance. The second method used to implement aid programs is to fund non-government organisations (NGOs) such as World Vision so that they are able to deliver the aid program.

The focus of the Labor Government is on ‘partnerships for development’. A partnership for development occurs when the Australian Government works with the country receiving the aid. Together, they decide what sort of things should be done with the aid money and develop checks and balances to ensure the money is actually spent on the things agreed to.

Corruption: means dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery.
Governance: means to control the spending to ensure aid is spent as was intended.

The Pacific Partnership for Development with Papua New Guinea is a typical example of this sort of aid program. This partnership agreement sets out agreed outcomes between the government of Australia and Papua New Guinea in priority order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority outcome</th>
<th>An example of this outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: Key national roads, ports and airports providing access to markets and services</td>
<td>To ensure 100% of priority national roads are in good condition by 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2: Significant, measurable progress towards the achievement of universal basic education</td>
<td>To achieve an average class size at elementary/primary schools of 40 or less.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3: Improved health outcomes</td>
<td>Increase the percentage of children receiving triple antigen and measles vaccinations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4: An efficient and effective public service</td>
<td>Improving public sector management.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEBATE
That the Australian Government has got the priorities wrong – priority 2 should be the most important priority.
The Australian Government also works with non-government organisations (NGOs) to maximise the aid effort. You will have heard about many of the NGOs that deliver aid programs, such as the Australian Red Cross, Caritas and World Vision. The reason the NGOs are so successful in delivering aid programs is that because they can mobilise public support and also get voluntary contributions for aid programs. The Australian Government works with the NGOs to deliver about 7% of the total aid program and these organisations are particularly important where government-to-government aid is difficult to achieve.

Australia’s Official Development Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dollars (billions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>$4.349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>$3.818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>$3.700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>$3.155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>$2.946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>$2.491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>$2.133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>$1.894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>$1.815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>$1.725</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig 7.5 The Australian Government’s Official Development Assistance to developing countries. The increase in dollar amounts over the last decade, represent an increase from 0.22 to 0.33% of the Gross National Product.

Fig 7.6 Countries that are recipients of the AusAID program
Launch of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Review of Australia’s Aid Program

FOREIGN MINISTER STEPHEN SMITH MP
REMARKS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE OECD’S REVIEW OF AUSTRALIA’S AID PROGRAM BY ECKHARD DEUTSCHER, CHAIRMAN, DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE OF THE OECD

So there is a very strong desire on the part of the Australian people to act as a good international citizen, which is why our NGOs and the Australian Government are so strongly supported by Australians when we come to deliver humanitarian assistance, whether it’s in the face of a terrible cyclone or terrible floods or for a food famine.

Australians individually and collectively respond generously and very well in those circumstances.

When it comes to development assistance, very much a focus of all our programs is capacity building to leave a long-term benefit. This is reflected in the review. It’s also reflected very much, Eckhard, in your remarks which is why very often in our development assistance programs we’re always looking to things where Australia brings a comparative advantage or a particular expertise where we can leave behind a long-term enduring benefit, whether it’s enhancing agricultural production, whether it’s improving maternal or child health care, whether it’s enhancing water and sanitation, whether it is improving education or other expertise through the use or application of scholarships or the building of schools.

Extract from a speech given by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Stephen Smith, on 4 February 2009.
The Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development

Caritas is concerned with delivering aid for long-term community development so that it encourages self-reliance. Caritas Australia has development programs in a number of African and Latin American countries as well as in Asia and the Pacific.

What does Caritas Australia do?

1. Encourages self-reliance through development programs that focus on providing integrated development across many areas such as:
   - water and sanitation
   - housing
   - education
   - literacy
   - women’s empowerment
   - income generation
   - sustainable agriculture.

2. Works with local partners to provide emergency relief (food, clothing, housing) and medical attention following natural disasters.

3. Works in Australia to:
   - promote a just and compassionate society at home and abroad
   - raise awareness of the reality and causes of poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice.

Haiti Earthquake

A devastating earthquake struck Haiti on 12 January 2010. The 7.0 magnitude earthquake killed an estimated 230,000 people (about the same number in the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004). Much of the capital, Port-au-Prince, was destroyed and the effects of the following aftershocks throughout the nation led to the displacement of a further 2.1 million people.

To meet the short term requirements Caritas Australia established a refugee camp that housed 50,000 people, provided food, shelter and hygiene kits. They also installed portable toilets and showering facilities and provided medical treatment for more than 60,000 people.

To meet the ongoing needs of the community Caritas Australia are committed to rebuilding the community and restoring hope amongst the people. They have provided 2000 cash-for-work opportunities, which assist locals with construction, clean up and conservation projects. This empowers individuals to start rebuilding their own lives. Caritas Australia has also distributed seed and fertiliser to farmers and built four schools.

Malawi Development Assistance

Malawi is a small landlocked country in central Eastern Africa and is ranked one of the poorest countries in the world. It has a population of 15 million people, 70% of whom live below the poverty line. Ninety per cent of people live in rural areas and rely on subsistence farming for their livelihoods. The greatest challenges they face are chronic malnutrition, the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the lack of adequate clean drinking water or medical services. The major focus for Caritas Australia has been on improving the standard of living for the local people by:

- increasing access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation
- providing education about more sustainable agricultural practices
- developing an understanding about HIV/AIDS – what the disease is, how to prevent its transmission, treatments etc

The projects that Caritas Australia have initiated are designed to teach the Malawian people new skills that will enable them to sustain themselves in the future (with less assistance from others). The bakery in the Kadikira parish is one example. Rather than providing the community with bread, the local women have been taught the skills to run the bakery themselves. They are also trained in how to run the business, which is just as important as learning how to cook and prepare the bakery items if the business is to be successful and long running. Bee keeping is another way to improve self-reliance. It requires minimal labour input but each hive can generate $130.

Visit the Caritas web site at www.caritas.org.au and find an example of an aid program. Imagine you worked for Caritas. Prepare a presentation to encourage Australians to contribute to the cost of that program.
1. The government department established to administer Australia’s aid program is called

2. The Australian government describes its role as

3. Explain the 2 ways AusAID implements its aid program

4. Define the following term - Partnership for Development

5. In your opinion, why has the Australian Government initiated these Partnerships?

6. What does the acronym NGO stand for?
   N_________________ G_________________ O___________________

7. In addition to those listed in the text, give two other examples of NGOs.
   -
   -
Worksheet 7.2 The roles of government and NGO’S in relation to Aid (cont’d)

8. What are the advantages/disadvantages of using non-government organisations such as the Red Cross, World Vision or Caritas to deliver aid programs (as opposed to government-to-government programs)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages of NGOs delivering aid programs</th>
<th>Disadvantages of NGOs delivering aid programs</th>
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</thead>
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</table>

9. Discuss the importance of NGOs in delivering aid programs. Use the discussion scaffold on page 307.

10. Brainstorm (individually/in groups) the types of goods and services that are provided through aid programs around the world. Use this list to complete a Venn diagram that shows whether Government or NGOs are responsible for delivering these goods/services. The shared responsibilities are listed in the middle. There is a scaffold for a Venn diagram on page 310.

11. Suggest some ways in which the individual can become involved in Australia’s aid program (directly or indirectly).

- 
- 
- 

Extension Activities:

1. Write a commercial to advertise why the Government spends money on aid and/or why individuals should donate to NGOs.

2. Imagine you are organising a conference to discuss future funding of Australia’s aid program. You will need to gather all necessary stakeholders. List which organisations you would want to invite and provide a reason for each inclusion.

3. Imagine you work as a policy advisor for AusAID. You are now working with your partner in Papua New Guinea to implement the outcomes. What specific things could Australia spend money on to achieve the following outcomes
   - reduce class sizes to an average of 40
   - increase the percentage of children receiving triple antigen and measles vaccinations.
**Worksheet 7.3 OECD and Caritas Case Study**

Using Fig 7.5 on page 181 Australia’s Official Development Assistance to answer the following questions.

1. Calculate the increase in the amount spent on Official Development Assistance from 2001-02 to 2010-2011.

2. Using the information in the question above, calculate the percentage increase in spending from 2001-01 to 2010-11.

3. Use the information from the table to construct a line or column graph of the same data in your book.

**Launch of the OECD review of Australia’s aid program**

4. In your opinion, what is meant by the phrase ‘good international citizen’?

5. Outline how the focus of ‘humanitarian aid’ and ‘development assistance’ is different.

6. List three examples when humanitarian aid would be needed.
   - 
   - 
   - 

7. Foreign Minister Stephen Smith lists the areas in which Australia has ‘a particular expertise’. Write them below.
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 
   - 

8. Next to each item listed above, categorise the activity as either (H) = Humanitarian or (DA) = Development Assistance.
Worksheet 7.3 OECD and Caritas Case Study (cont’d)

**Caritas Australia**

1. Caritas Australia is

2. The role of the organisation is to

3. Caritas Australia works to “change attitudes” in Australian society. List the two ways they do this below.
   - 
   - 

   In your opinion,
   a) What are the “attitudes” that need changing?
      - 
      - 
      - 
      - 
   b) Why is “changing attitudes” an important part of their mission?

4. Using the case studies on page 183, identify 5 examples of each type of aid to complete the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanitarian</th>
<th>Development Assistance</th>
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</table>
Treaties and/or agreements relevant to Aid

If one country sees a problem in another country it cannot do anything about it without the agreement of that country’s government. Imagine, for example, there was a tsunami that caused enormous damage to the coastal regions of a neighbouring country. Australia would want to help. What would be the consequences if Australia sent in our special forces to rescue people, repair damage, deliver medical assistance and so on without the prior agreement of that neighbour?

Aid can only be delivered with the agreement of both the Australian Government and the government of the country we want to assist. More importantly, the agreement needs to set out very precisely what types of activities will be carried out and how they will be carried out. This is the purpose of a treaty. A treaty is a formally concluded and ratified agreement between countries. Treaties must be agreed upon before any aid can be delivered. There are two types of treaty. A treaty between two countries is called a bilateral treaty. A treaty between more than two countries is called a multilateral treaty.

Australia now frames the treaties we make on delivering development aid in the form of a partnership development agreement. The partnership development agreements formally set out the expectations and responsibilities of both countries. For example, if Australia agrees to provide the money to fund the upgrading of national highways, immunise children against measles, or train primary school teachers, the Australian Government expects that the money will be spent on that specified project and not on something else. At the same time it is the expectation of the Papua New Guinea Government to be an equal partner in deciding which projects will deliver the greatest benefit to the people of Papua New Guinea. In early 2009 these partnership development agreements were concluded with Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Kiribati. The Australian Government has determined that most future government-to-government aid treaties will be in the form of partnership development agreements.

**Treaty:** an agreement between two or more nations which is binding under international law.

**Formally concluded:** both nations agree to what is written in the treaty.

**Ratified:** giving formal consent to the agreement.

**Bilateral treaty:** A treaty between two countries.

**Multilateral Treaty:** a treaty between more than two countries.

**THINK, PAIR, SHARE**
Discuss the idea of partnership development agreements with a friend. Do you think it is better to set out each country’s expectations, or send the money to the government of the country receiving the aid and let them determine what the money will be spent on?
Worksheet 7.4 Treaties and/or agreements relevant to Aid

1. Define the term treaty or agreement.

2. Partnerships for Development can be classified as a treaty because

   - Identify the purpose of this type of treaty.

   - Partnerships for Development establish links with other nations through our aid program. Using the example in the text (PNG), outline the importance of the agreement to both countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance of agreement to Australia</th>
<th>Importance of agreement to PNG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
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<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. The AusAID website (www.ausaid.gov.au) provides information on Australia’s bilateral and regional programs in those countries with which Australia has a development partnership. Complete the alphabet below using the names of countries that Australia currently has development partnerships with. If there is no country beginning with that letter suggest a word that relates to this topic.

A ___________ B ___________ C ___________ D ___________ E ___________
F ___________ G ___________ H ___________ I ___________ J ___________
K ___________ L ___________ M ___________ N ___________ O ___________
P ___________ Q ___________ R ___________ S ___________ T ___________
U ___________ V ___________ W ___________ Y ___________ Z ___________

Extension Activity:
1. Design a logo to represent a treaty or agreement that you have studied. Your logo should reflect the identity of both countries and highlight their partnership i.e. working together to meet outcomes.
2. Visit the Global Education website www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au to complete the learning activities on Micro-enterprise in the Philippines. You can get there by using the following links: Global Issues, then Australia’s aid program, then Teaching activities and then ‘Micro-enterprise in the Philippines’.
3. Conduct a class debate ‘That Australia should not dictate how aid money is spent and distributed in partnerships with other nations’.
Cultural, economic and geopolitical advantages and disadvantages to Australia

Do you know anything about Somalia? Somalia is often regarded as a ‘failed state’. The country is really run by a number of warlords and the central government has little control in large parts of the country. Criminals and terrorists have little fear of the law. Imagine if this were happening on Australia’s borders in countries like Papua New Guinea! A key goal of our aid program is to ensure we have stability in our region where there are extensive cultural and economic exchanges with our neighbours. Stability in our region is an important geopolitical advantage to Australia. The Australian foreign aid program has a number of cultural, economic and geopolitical advantages and disadvantages to Australia.

Cultural advantages and disadvantages to Australia

Aid programs yield cultural advantages to Australia. Cultural advantages refer to the benefits from the ideas, customs and social behaviours we gain when we interact with other societies. You might think, for a moment, of the enormous benefits to Australia from the various waves of migration such as the Italian wave and the Greek wave. Australians learned about new types of entertainment, clothes, dance, music and food.

When Australians interact with people in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Samoa and Timor-Leste through aid programs, they learn about new ways of doing things and develop a better understanding of their neighbours. Australian society is culturally enhanced as a result. In this sense an aid program increases the cultural diversity in Australia.

But there are also disadvantages. There are still many people in Australia who oppose cultural diversity. They see it as weakening our cultural ties with England. Many argue we should first focus aid on ‘our own backyard.’ Many of these people oppose immigration for the same reasons. They argue for what they see as an ‘Australian’ culture and feel diversity weakens that ‘culture’.

THINK, PAIR, SHARE

Work with your learning partner to clarify your views on cultural diversity. Do you value things like music, food and ideas from another culture? Do you think multiculturalism is an advantage or a disadvantage to Australia? What do you think are the characteristics and features of being ‘Australian’?
Economic advantages and disadvantages to Australia

The economic advantages of an aid program can also be significant. Think, for a moment, about who benefits from an aid shipment of wheat to Iraq. Obviously there are advantages to Iraq from the aid shipment. But it also advantages the Australian wheat grower through increased income. And a number of other groups, such as banks, insurance and transport businesses, are also advantaged.

Another significant advantage to Australia is the trade links that often follow an aid program. Businesses are created in countries like Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands based initially on importing products from Australia and later exporting products to Australia. Trade has a lot of advantages. Jobs are created in both Australia and in the country that has received the aid. In larger economies such as Papua New Guinea, the trade advantages to Australia are considerable since a great deal of the aid money is paid to Australian businesses. The Papua New Guinea Prime Minister called Australian aid ‘boomerang aid’ because most of it went straight back to Australia. Indeed it is estimated that some 60% of Australian aid to Papua New Guinea is paid to Australian businesses providing consultancy services to Papua New Guinea.

Another type of economic benefit comes from the use of microfinance aid. In the Philippines, for example, there is an Australian aid program that lends small amounts of money to people (mostly women) to start a business. It might be as simple as lending the money for a sewing machine to enable the person to make and sell clothing. Or perhaps lending the money to buy a cow so the person can gain an income from selling milk. Again there are economic advantages to Australia. Following this type of aid program, incomes rise and people start to purchase more goods – often imported from Australian suppliers.

It is difficult to imagine economic disadvantages from an aid program but some people argue the money would be better spent in Australia. The argument goes along the lines of saying that spending the money on aid means that it is not available for things like infrastructure programs. For example, the money could be spent on building ports to more efficiently export iron ore and coal, which would subsequently improve the living standards of all Australians.

THINK, PAIR, SHARE

Work with your learning partner to clarify your views on the economic advantages and disadvantages of an aid program. Do you think the economic benefits of an aid program are mostly to the recipient country? Do you think a country as rich as Australia could do both – meet the economic needs of Australia as well as assist the economies of smaller countries?
Geopolitical advantages and disadvantages to Australia

Geopolitical is a difficult concept to understand. It refers to the impact of geographical factors on international relations. Australia is a major political power in the South-East Pacific region and how we conduct our international relations is most important.

Australia's major geopolitical goal is to ensure the neighbourhood is stable and cohesive. We started this section with some information about the stability and cohesion of Somalia. The purpose of this introduction was to get you thinking about what could happen if countries like Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands became lawless entities.

The advantages of using our political power in our region are considerable. If countries such as Papua New Guinea became like Somalia - havens for criminals, terrorists and tax evaders, the consequences for Australia could be considerable. Terrorists and criminals could use these countries as a safe base for their Australian activities. It is a geopolitical advantage to Australia to have a prosperous, stable and cohesive Papua New Guinea. This is why Australia helps Papua New Guinea develop the infrastructure needed to ensure that they are a stable, cohesive country – good governance, police, local government, courts and a well trained army. This is also the reason Australia sent troops to the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste on peacekeeping missions – to assist the governments of those countries to maintain law and order.

Australian geopolitical power is also used to pursue social and environmental goals in the region. The Australian policy on commercial whaling is an example. Australian policy is to get rid of whaling in the southern ocean and make it a whale sanctuary. Australia uses its geopolitical power to persuade other Pacific nations to support this policy in organisations like the International Whaling Commission.

However, there are also geopolitical disadvantages to the Australia aid program. Initially some of the Australian aid program contributed to corruption. In Papua New Guinea, for example, a great deal of Australian aid money was distributed to people to get them to vote for a particular politician. The shift towards the ‘partnership development agreement’ model will stop this type of corruption.

Another geopolitical disadvantage of the aid program is that sometimes aid can be perceived as a tool to ‘bully’ smaller nations. Fiji, for example, regarded Australia as a ‘regional bully’ when Australia applied sanctions after the military coup in Fiji in 2006. Australia’s regional goal is to encourage democratic governments in neighbouring countries and this is why the sanctions (such as preventing anyone in the military dictatorship from landing in Australia and abandoning joint exercises with the Fijian army) were imposed.

Geopolitics: the art and practice of using international political power.
Worksheet 7.5 Cultural, economic and geopolitical advantages and disadvantages to Australia

1. Summarise the advantages and disadvantages of Australia giving aid in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Makes us ‘feel good’ about ourselves.</td>
<td>We could be helping Indigenous people (“closing the gap”) and other disadvantaged communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>- We ‘look good’ to other nations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Provides stability in the region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geopolitical</td>
<td></td>
<td>Loss of money that could be spent here.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An analysis involves higher order thinking. You must identify the various components and the relationship between them and think through the implications of these relationships.

Extended Response:
Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of Australia giving aid to countries in need.
Minimum response should be 1 A4 page.
When you have completed this task, compare your answer to the one you provided earlier (Worksheet 7.1).

Extension Activity:
1. Conduct a survey of students/family about their opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of giving aid.
2. Compose a poem or song expressing your own views on giving aid.
3. Imagine you live in a village in one of the countries receiving aid from Australia. Develop an understanding of perspectives by writing a letter to a family member describing the importance of receiving this aid for you and your community.
How much aid would you think a wealthy country such as Australia should give (as both humanitarian and developmental assistance) to people and countries who desperately need our help? Think about this question in terms of a percentage of Australia’s Gross National Income (GNI) – that is the sum total of all income earned in Australia in a year. Think too about the women in Ethiopia suffering from fistula and the 64,000 people in Papua New Guinea who are HIV positive and the 800 million people in our region who live their lives in grinding poverty. Think too of the people living in desperate conditions in Timor-Leste. Did you know the average life expectancy of the Timorese people is just 56 years? And the average woman gives birth to nearly 8 children - population growth is a massive 5.36% a year! Just on 43% of the population is under the age of 15. Did you know that the average income per person in East Timor is US$367 per annum? Work it out – how much is this per day?

Given what you know, do you think it would be reasonable to spend 10% of our Gross National Income on aid? The United Nations has argued that 1% of Gross National Income should be the goal of wealthy nations such as Australia. Very few countries give 1% of Gross National Income in aid - those that do include the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. In 2009–2010 Australian aid was $3.8 billion. It seems like a great deal of money but it represented just 0.34% of Australia’s Gross National Income (GNI).

The Australian Government has a ‘very strong commitment to increase Australia’s development assistance contribution to 0.5 per cent of GNI by 2015’ (0.5% is about $8–9 billion). What do you think about this in terms of social justice? If you believe, for example, the goal should be 1% by 2015, what could you do to influence the Australian Government? Why do you think our aid effort is less than half the United Nations target? Active citizenship is about contributing to the decision-making process.

Why not set out your opinions and the reason for those opinions and write to the foreign minister at:
Foreign Minister
Parliament House
Canberra
OR
Email the foreign minister at: Foreignminister@parliament.gov.au

Equity in the Australian aid program is also an important issue that you need to think about. Equity is about being fair and impartial. The Australian Government believes it can best achieve equity by focusing the Australian aid program on improving the educational opportunities and health of the 800 million of the world’s poor who live in the Asia-Pacific region.
Working with their hearts

An article in the Sydney Morning Herald by Jock Cheetham described how many Australians are going out of their way to volunteer in East Timor. The article focused on the way year 11 boys from Saint Ignatius’ College, Riverview, spent one of their holidays working with some of the poorest people in the world.

The teachers and students from Riverview joined the ranks of the thousands of Australians who have volunteered to work in East Timor. Cheetham makes the point that ‘although the volunteer approach has some problems, many Timorese prefer it to the high-cost international government aid programs, including some work by AusAID, the Australian Government’s overseas aid body.

The boys from Saint Ignatius, Riverview not only paid their own fares but also fundraised $300 each to give to the schools they visited. The volunteer work involved helping the teachers in the school to teach English to their students.

Australian Volunteers International has placed just over 450 volunteers in East Timor over the last 11 years. AusAID supplies much of the funding needed. However, many Australians have self-funded their volunteer work.

Sydney Morning Herald, 12 July 2010
Worksheet 7.6 Social justice and equity issues in Australia and other countries

1. Define the terms
   Social Justice:
   
   ____________________________  ____________________________
   ____________________________  ____________________________
   ____________________________  ____________________________
   ____________________________  ____________________________
   ____________________________

   Equity:
   
   ____________________________  ____________________________
   ____________________________  ____________________________
   ____________________________  ____________________________
   ____________________________  ____________________________
   ____________________________

2. Using these definitions, complete the table below. As these ideals are closely related, many reasons may appear in both columns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Giving aid to countries in need promotes social justice because.....</th>
<th>Giving aid to countries in need ensures equity amongst nations because.....</th>
</tr>
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Extension Activity:
1. Collect digital images to create a PowerPoint/Keynote presentation about an event requiring humanitarian aid. The purpose of your presentation is to demonstrate the need for Australia’s involvement in this situation.
2. Write an Exposition to persuade the class to donate money to an NGO. Use the exposition scaffold on page 313 to help you.
3. Undertake a case study (conduct research) on the impact of aid in Samoa or PNG. Identify the programs that are operating in this country with the money from Australia’s aid.
The nature of Aid

It is important to understand at the outset a little bit about Samoan culture to appreciate the complexity of aid programs. Samoa is an island in the Pacific. The country consists of two main and eight smaller islands. It is a beautiful country where rainforest-covered mountains blend into a coastline encircled by white beaches. The population is 220,000 of whom 40,000 live in the capital city, Apia. The rest of the population live in 362 villages that consist of churches, a meeting house and open fales or homes encircling the village green.

A community consists of a number of extended families with a matai (chief) as head of the extended family. The role of the matai involves family, civic and political duties in the village. Any decision requires the agreement of all the matai in the village. It is not easy to get the agreement an effective aid program requires.

Religion is an important influence on village life. Christian missionaries over the last 200 years have been very influential but despite this the Samoans have retained a great deal of their Polynesian cultural traditions. Typical foods include fresh fish, octopus, tuna, bananas, taro, tropical vegetables and fruit. All food is cooked on an umu (earth oven of hot stones) and usually cooked in coconut cream and wrapped in banana leaves.

By Australian standards Samoa is a developing country. The gross domestic product (GDP) per head of population is approximately A$3500. Agricultural exports of coconuts, bananas, taro and yams accounts for some 12% of GDP. The industry sector is concerned with food processing, building materials and auto parts. This sector accounts for about 27% of GDP. The largest sector of GDP is the services sector and tourism is really significant.

What does Samoa need to develop more rapidly? What could Australia do to effectively help?

Belinda Bell, a geography teacher (and co-author of the text), visited Samoa to conduct interviews with the people directly involved with these aid programs. The task seems easy enough when phrases such as ‘improvements in education’ are written in this way. But it is nowhere near as easy when it comes to implementing these strategies in ‘real life’. This became apparent in many of the interviews Belinda conducted with the people involved in providing and delivering the aid. For example, Bill Martin, a solicitor on assignment with Australian Volunteers International, made the point that ‘teachers often don’t turn up to class because the wages are so low’. Similarly, John Klien, a member of the Peace Corp and teacher at Don Boscoe College, says that ‘students often don’t turn up for periods as long as six weeks but are never chased up’.

It is a bit the same with health. Stefan Torres works for the World Health Organization. He made the point that when Samoan students are given scholarships to study medicine in Australia, New Zealand or Fiji, most stay in those countries when they get their qualifications. Nurses are the backbone of the Samoan health system and it is important to train as many as possible. Perhaps the most effective aid would be to establish the training institutions in Samoa.
The roles of government and of non-government organisations in relation to Aid

The most important role of the Australian Government is to fund development aid for Samoa. While poverty reduction is important, the focus of government aid is on improving education and health and building the infrastructure needed for this. The overall purpose of the program is to improve the living standards of the Samoan people. Some of the facilities that the Australian Government has funded include a new Samoa Police Headquarters/Apia Police Station and armoury, which was opened in February 2008, and the School of Tourism and Hospitality, Australia Pacific Technical College opened in 2008 for Samoans to undertake training in the tourism and hospitality trades. A school for Health and Community Services at the college has also been built.

The Australian and Samoan governments believe that the best way to improve the living standards of the Samoan people is to build a skilled and educated workforce; having enough technically qualified people helps drive economic growth in the country. The Australian Government is also funding scholarships to make sure talented children have the opportunity to undertake the training regardless of their family circumstances.

Non-government organisations (NGOs) also play an important role in delivering aid in Samoa. NGOs raise funds through charity drives as well as government funding and assist the government in implementing the aid program mainly through voluntary labour.

Australian Volunteers International is typical of these organisations. The Peace Corp is another organisation providing volunteers for aid programs in Samoa. These NGOs receive grants from both AusAid and NZAid to fund their programs. The projects they are involved in typically include education, youth outreach, community development, agriculture and environment. There are also important programs to improve health. One of the most important is providing information on HIV/AIDS. Teaching information technology skills is another aspect of the volunteer program.
Treaties and/or agreements relevant to Aid

The Partnership for Development agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Samoa is a bilateral treaty setting out each nation’s obligation. The prime ministers of Australia and Samoa signed the treaty on 19 August 2008 and it will last until 2015.

Following are some typical objectives in the treaty. The Samoan Government agrees, for example, to use Australian aid to achieve the following objectives:

- poverty reduction and improvements in health and education for all Samoans
- sustainable broad-based economic growth, which advances the welfare of both men and women, including increased investments in economic infrastructure, enhanced private sector development and local employment and trade growth
- improved civil and economic governance.

The purpose of the treaty is to enable both countries to meet common challenges and to raise the living standards of the people of Samoa by being mutually accountable.

Australia benefits from the treaty through the knowledge that health and education for Samoans will be improved, poverty is reduced and a stable self-reliant government is created. Samoa benefits from the agreement because Australia provides funding to improve conditions in their country and provide high quality financial, technical and policy support needed to achieve necessary changes.

Fig 7.30 Samoan farm buildings.

Fig 7.31 Traditional fishing vessel.

Fig 7.32 Traditional fales

Fig 7.33 Local coconut products for export.

Fig 7.34 Infrastructure like marinas allow for growth in the fishing and tourism industries.
Cultural, economic and geopolitical advantages and disadvantages to Australia

The aid program in Samoa provides significant cultural advantages for Australia. Samoan foods, music and lifestyle enhance the multicultural nature of Australian culture.

The economic advantages in the Samoan aid program are significant. Economic growth is not a significant aspect of the Samoan cultural heritage. Exposure to the aid program provides business opportunities for Samoans who see the value in higher incomes and the various outcomes associated with trade. Business activities in turn provide jobs and also benefit Australian businesses involved in exporting goods and services to Samoa.

A significant aspect of the development of economic relations between the two countries is the Pacific Islands labour visas provided by Australia. Young Samoans have the opportunity to work in Australian agriculture for part of the year, particularly fruit picking, and are able to significantly increase their income. The advantage to Australia is significant because fruit growers have always found it difficult to get the labour needed to harvest the fruit crop; often crops simply fell on the ground because farmers were unable to get the labour they needed.

Perhaps the geopolitical advantages of the Samoan aid program are most important. The aid program is creating stronger relations between Australians and Samoans. Australian aid contributes to stability in our region. Australian values are better appreciated by Samoans and Samoans are more likely to support Australian initiatives in the Pacific region.

Social justice and equity issues in Australia and other countries

There is no doubt a wealthy country like Australia has an obligation to assist poorer people in our region. It is the right thing to do. Samoa needs our help to increase the life expectancy of its people to Australian standards and to reduce things like the infant mortality rate in Samoa. Infant mortality in Samoa is currently 24 deaths per 1000 compared to the Australian 5 deaths per 1000.

The Australian aid program has been carefully constructed to ensure all people in Samoa benefit. The scholarship scheme is a particularly important aspect of the desire to achieve equity. The scholarship scheme is designed to ensure talented children have access to training regardless of where they live in Samoa and is very important in providing opportunities for children who live on the smaller islands.
The nature of the link
- there is a long list of Australian aid programs to nations throughout the globe
  - example of humanitarian aid - $5million to Hamlin Fistula College
  - example of economic assistance - continuing aid to Papua New Guinea for development of roads, education, health etc.

The roles of government and non-government organisations
- Australian government implements aid programs through AusAID
- AusAID’s role is ‘assisting developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development’.
- AusAID implements aid programs in two ways
  - government-to-government aid programs to provide economic assistance
  - providing humanitarian aid often with the assistance of NGOs partially funded by public donations) to assist following floods, earthquakes etc
- key partnership agreement with Papua New Guinea to help provide things like
  - build key national roads, ports and airports
  - achieve universal basic education
  - improve health outcomes
  - develop an efficient public service
- wide range of NGOs providing both humanitarian aid and economic assistance
  - Caritas
  - World Vision

Regional and global links – Aid
- aid is economic and humanitarian assistance to people who need help
- the focus of the Australian aid program is the Asia-Pacific region but we have aid links with nations globally
- treaties and/or agreements relevant to the link
  - aid can only be delivered with approval of country being assisted
  - approval is given in the form of a treaty
  - treaty is a formally ratified agreement
  - two types of treaties
    - bilateral treaty agreement between two countries
    - multilateral treaty between more than two countries
  - current Australian aid programs focus on development agreements
  - development agreements between Australia and Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and so on

Cultural, economic and geopolitical advantages and disadvantages to Australia

Cultural
- cultural refers to ideas, customs and social behaviours
- Australia benefits from the cultural diversity
- sometimes people argue we should focus on English values

Economic
- Australian businesses benefit from aid e.g. wheat shipments to Iraq
- microfinance aid to start small businesses benefit Australia through more trade
- Papua New Guinea Prime Minister claimed most aid was ‘boomerang aid’ and went to Australian consultants
- some people argue money would be better spent in Australia

Geopolitical
- geopolitical refers to the impact of geographical factors on international relations
- aid program used to pursue social and environmental goals in our region
- aid program used to create stability in our region
- some nations (Fiji in particular) claim the aid program is used to ’bully’ them

Social justice and equity issues in Australia and other countries
- most Australians argue wealthy countries should assist poorer countries
- Australian aid program is totally focused on fairness – aims to reduce inequity in countries being assisted
- focus of aid is better governance to assist all people and education and health to help the poor improve their position

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Worksheet 7.7 Writing Activity – Extended Response

In order to effectively answer extended response questions in exams, you need to have a good understanding of how the question relates to the syllabus. You can find a copy on the Board of Studies website [www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au).

Extended response questions in the School Certificate examinations in Geography will be either 1 ½ A4 pages or 2 ½ A4 pages in length. When answering these questions you should plan your response BEFORE you begin writing.

- Brainstorm a list of all the key points you will use to answer the question.
- Use these notes to create a logical order of information – this may be as simple as writing a number next to each idea in the right order.
- If you are running out of time, list the rest of these ideas in point form at the end of your response (you may be awarded marks for this).

Below is an example of an extended response question, as it will appear in your exam. In an exam this question would be followed by 1 ½ blank lined pages for you to complete your answer. Use your own paper to practise this example.

**Question 1** (15 marks)

In your answer you will be assessed on your ability to:

- organise and communicate your knowledge and understanding effectively
- support your ideas with relevant examples
- use geographical terms appropriately

**Australia has regional and global links with other countries for:**

- aid
- migration
- defence
- trade

**Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of ONE of these links for Australia in its regional and global context.**

REMEmBER: An analysis involves higher order thinking. You must identify the various components and the relationship between them and think through the implications of these relationships.

In your answer you should

- **identify** the cultural/economic/geopolitical advantages and disadvantages for Australia (use the table you completed on Worksheet 7.5)
- look at the big picture – how do these different components impact on each other?
  
  Even though you have not been specifically asked to *evaluate*, some form of evaluation is required in an analysis. When thinking through the implications of the relationships between the components that you have identified (above), you will start to formulate ideas about whether Australia’s aid program has more advantages or disadvantages. This will form the basis of your answer.
- include examples from Australia’s regional and global context.