

AUSTRALIA

DONOR PROFILE 2023

UNITED
FOR
GLOBAL
MENTAL
HEALTH

AUSTRALIA

Key Facts:

% GNI/ODA 2022	2022 ODA	2021 DAMH
0.19%	US\$3 billion	US\$0

Australia allocated 0.19% of gross national income (GNI) as official development assistance (ODA) in 2021. In 2022 Australia started consulting on a new development policy (focused on the Indo-Pacific region). In February 2023 [The Pulse Check](#) was published, an independent report commissioned by the Government of Australia to review consultation responses; top themes for Australia to address in their new development policy include climate change and the environment followed by rising inequality, and participants thought Australia could provide the most effective support by focusing on human development including by increasing wellbeing.

GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Australia is one of the three founding members of the Alliance of Champions for Mental Health and Wellbeing (alongside Canada and the UK), and is a member of the MHPSS donor group. The global mental health projects that Australia has funded in the past include:

- the Mental Health Integration in the Northern Districts of Sri Lanka initiative (managed by the World Vision Australia (WVA))
- the Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Cambodia to support the provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to survivors of gender-based violence.
- Mental health support to frontline health workers in Fiji returning to work during COVID-19

A government funded strategic review of Australian [health financing in Nauru](#) 2018-2022 made financing mental health care for survivors of gender-based violence a key recommendation. It is unknown whether Australia has acted upon this. Furthermore a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade strategic review of Australia's [Fiji health programme](#) noted mental health as an area of “unquestionable importance”, although no significant bilateral investments in this area are planned in Fiji in future.



Australia does not have a strategy for mental health, nor is it included in wider health policy documents. But it does have a [disability-inclusive development strategy](#).

DOMESTIC MENTAL HEALTH

Australia have a number of domestic mental health policies and plans, including a [2030 vision](#) for mental health and suicide prevention. The vision focuses on local community solutions, a connected and integrated system of care, and investment in prevention and early intervention. Priority populations include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTQIA people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, veterans and their families, rural and remote communities, people affected by disasters, children, youth and older adults, and people with mental and physical comorbidity.

According to the [Medical Journal of Australia](#), Australia more than doubled their expenditure on mental health services from AUS\$5.8 billion in 2008/9 to AUS\$11 billion in 2019/20. Spending on Australia's national mental health suicide prevention plan is anticipated to reach nearly [AUS\\$3 billion](#) in 2023. Spending on

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade ([DFAT](#)) manages policy, budget and implementation, and managed over 90% of the ODA budget in 2017.

The [Australian National Mental Health Commission](#) advises the Australian government on mental health

Australia is a member of the [International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership \(IIMHL\)](#). It is also a member of APEC and contributes to the [APEC Digital Hub for Mental Health](#).

KEY DECISION MAKERS

Prime Minister: [Anthony Albanese](#)

Suicide Prevention Adviser and CEO of the National Mental Health

Commission: [Christine Morgan](#)

Australian Minister for Health: [Mark Butler](#)

Minister for Foreign Affairs: [Penny Wong](#)

Minister for Finance, Women and Public Service: [Katy Gallagher](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

According to [IHME](#) data, Australia did not contribute any development assistance to mental health in 2021, although this figure is only representative of government



resources. Australia primarily distributes ODA bilaterally; in 2020, 80.8% of Australia's ODA was bilateral. Australia often works with Australian accredited NGOs through the [Australian NGO Cooperation Program](#).

Funds supported by Australia:	
UNFPA	UNFPA calls for the realization of reproductive rights for all.
Global Fund	The Global Fund invests US\$4 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria. The Global Fund strategy includes a significant commitment to mental health as a comorbidity and key point of intersectionality with the 3 diseases. You can apply for funding on their website.
GAVI	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is focused on increasing the sustainable and equitable use of vaccines worldwide. The current strategy (2021-2025) is narrowly defined with no reference to mental health.
Global Environment Facility	The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral fund dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. They fund government projects.
Green Climate Fund	The GCF is the world's largest climate fund, mandated to support developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways. Like the GEF, the GCF is also driven by government-identified national priorities.
WHO	The United Nations agency for health. Australia is one of the top 5 contributors to the WHO and lends technical expertise to the WHO such as through the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in relation to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), including for mental health.
UN Women	UN Women delivers programmes, policies and standards that uphold women's human rights and ensure that every woman and girl lives up to her full potential. Australia is UN Women's largest contributor in the Indo-Pacific region.
UNDP	UN lead agency on international development. Australia's funding for UNDP has contributed to health security, stability and economic recovery.
UNICEF	UN agency for children. Australia's funding for UNICEF has contributed to health security (infection, prevention and control), water, sanitation and hygiene, and stability.
UNHCR	The UN refugee agency.

World Food Programme	The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity, for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.
ILO	The International Labour Organization.

KEY RESOURCES

- Pulse Check for new development policy
- Vision 2030 for mental health and suicide prevention
- Partnerships for Recovery: Australia's COVID-19 Development Response
- [Development for All 2015-2020 Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program](#)
- [Health for Development Strategy 2015-2020](#)
- WHO Mental Health Atlas 2020 [Country Profile](#)
- WHO [MiNDbank](#)