



Australian Government

# Australia Awards

## 2011 Annual Progress Report

'Building bridges between people and nations'



Copyright Commonwealth of Australia 2012

ISSN: 2200-7768 (print)  
ISBN: 978-1-74322-047-4 (PDF document)

### **Creative Commons**

With the exception of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms and where otherwise noted, this report is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/>



### **The report should be attributed as the:**

'Australia Awards 2011 Annual Progress Report - Building bridges between people and nations'.

### **Enquiries regarding the licence and any use of the report are welcome at:**

Assistant Secretary  
Public Diplomacy and Information Branch  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
R G Casey Building  
John McEwen Crescent  
Barton ACT 0221  
Australia

Telephone: +61 2 6261 1111  
Website: [www.australiaawards.gov.au](http://www.australiaawards.gov.au)

*Cover image: Australia Awards recipients at Parliament House, Canberra.  
Photo: AusAID.*

## Produced by

The Australia Awards Secretariat  
Public Diplomacy and Information Branch  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
RG Casey Building  
John McEwen Crescent  
Barton ACT 0221  
Australia

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Peter Macfarlane, Director, Australia Awards Secretariat
<b>Report Coordinator and Lead Writer:</b>	Julia Landford, Executive Officer, Australia Awards Secretariat
<b>Report Design:</b>	Julie Connor, Graphic Designer, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra
<b>Editor:</b>	Moreen Dee, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canberra
<b>Printed by:</b>	Paragon Printers, Canberra



# Foreword

---



In many ways Australia is the lucky country. Our geographic location and resource base puts us at the heart of the world's most dynamic economies.

With this good fortune comes a responsibility to assist the developing world still disfigured by poverty and the instability that goes with it.

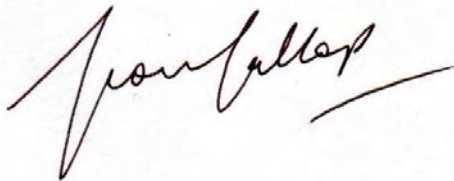
This good fortune also brings great opportunities to build on our strengths in education and research.

The Australia Awards are designed for both. They are part of our capacity building aid program and part of the support given to the best and brightest here and overseas.

The Australia Awards Board has been established to ensure these responsibilities are fulfilled and to take up these opportunities to the best of our ability. To this end we will be advising government on how best to brand our efforts, on how best to ensure a 'total' experience for students who come here from overseas, and on how to set up, maintain and utilise our alumni networks.

Our guiding principle is simple: we need to think and act globally. We want Australia to be the partner of choice for developing countries and the destination of choice for scholars and researchers.

We look forward to the work that is before us and urge all with an interest in our aspirations to contribute to our deliberations.



**Professor Geoff Gallop, AC**  
**Chair, Australia Awards Board**



# Acknowledgements

---

The Australia Awards Secretariat thanks all Australia Awards recipients for sharing their inspiring stories and experiences for this first Australia Awards Progress Report.

The production of the report was made possible by the efforts of officers from each of the participating Australia Awards agencies, associated Australian government missions and implementing partners, with particular thanks to:

## **AusAID:**

Therese Mills / Jenny Da Rin - Assistant Director-General  
Amy Haddad - Director, Scholarships Section  
Angus Braithwaite - Communications Manager, Scholarships  
Brad Kajewski - Finance and Reporting Manager, Scholarships  
Kamruzzaman Morol - Program Officer, Scholarships  
Kate Smith - Secretariat Liaison Officer, Scholarships

## **DIISRTE:**

Vipan Mahajan - General Manager, Australian Education International  
Mark Snowden - A/g Director, International Mobility and Scholarships  
Janita Holt - Secretariat Liaison Officer  
Vanessa Tulenew - Program Manager  
Michelle Law - Project Officer  
Jennifer Cahill - Communications Manager

## **ACIAR:**

Simon Hearn - Principal Adviser  
Alexandra Bagnara - Science Communicator  
Sharon Harvey - Program Manager

## **Australian-American Fulbright Commission:**

Tangerine Holt - Executive Director  
Rosemary Schnedding - Communications Manager  
Lyndell Wilson - Manager Scholarships and Strategic Engagement

## **DFAT:**

Ruth Pearce - Assistant Secretary, Public Diplomacy Branch

## **Australia Awards Secretariat:**

Jill King - Program Officer  
Michael Francis - A/g Executive Officer







# Contents

---

Foreword	v
Acknowledgements	vii
Contents	ix
Acronyms	xi
Quick Facts	xiii
Executive Summary	xv
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
Australia in the 21st Century Australia Awards – innovative international education Australia’s historical contribution to international education Implementation of the Australia Awards in 2011	
<b>2. Highlights of 2011</b>	<b>11</b>
Appointment of the Board Introducing the Australia Awards Board Progress with implementation of the Australia Awards National announcements and events International events by region	
<b>3. Facts and Figures</b>	<b>81</b>
Total awards by region Top 10 source countries Top 10 countries hosting Australia Award recipients (Endeavour Awards) Age and gender demographics by region Fields of study (Development and Endeavour Awards) Top 10 Australian host institutions Financial expenditure by region	
<b>4. Contact us/feedback</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>5. Annexes</b>	<b>101</b>
Annex 1: Summary of Australia Awards categories 2011 Annex 2: Australia Awards statistics 2011	

## Boxes, Tables and Figures

### Boxes

1.1	Educating girls and women yields high returns	3
1.2	Disability-inclusive awards	4
2.1	The Australia Awards Board – Terms of Reference	11
2.2	A brief overview of the policy context for the Australia Awards in 2011	18
2.3	People-to-people links: Australia Awards alumni – the stories	20
2.4	Increasing language proficiency for award recipients in Timor-Leste	59

### Tables

3.1	Increasing numbers of Australia Awards 2007–11	81
3.2	Total awards by region, 2011	82
3.3	Top 10 combined source countries for Development and Endeavour Awards in 2011	85
3.4	Development Awards: top 10 source countries (incoming scholars)	86
3.5	Endeavour Awards: top 10 source countries (incoming scholars)	87
3.6	Endeavour Awards: top 10 countries hosting Australia Award recipients (outgoing scholars)	87
3.7	Development Awards: age and gender demographics – male recipients, accepted by region	89
3.8	Development Awards: age and gender demographics – female recipients, accepted by region	90
3.9	Endeavour Awards: age demographics for incoming award holders, accepted by region	91
3.10	Endeavour Awards: age demographics for outgoing award holders, accepted by region	91
3.11	Endeavour Awards: gender demographics for incoming award holders, accepted by region	92
3.12	Endeavour Awards: gender demographics for outgoing award holders, accepted by region	92
3.13	Top 10 Australian institutions hosting incoming (International) Development Award holders	96
3.14	Top 10 Australian institutions hosting incoming (International) and outgoing (Australian) Endeavour Award holders	96
3.15	Summary of AusAID and DIISRTE expenditure for FY2009–10 and FY2010-11	98
3.16	Total expenditure by region, FY2010-11	98

### Figures

2.a	Australia Awards Cycle	19
3.a	Total Development Awards by region, 2011	83
3.b	Endeavour Awards incoming scholars by region, 2011	83
3.c	Endeavour Awards outgoing scholars by region, 2011	84
3.d	Total Australia Awards (Development and Endeavour Awards) incoming scholars by region, 2011	84
3.e	Development Awards: age and gender demographics – male recipients, accepted by region, 2011	89
3.f	Development Awards: age and gender demographics – female recipients, accepted by region, 2011	90
3.g	Development Awards: fields of study for incoming award holders, 2011	93
3.h	Endeavour Awards: fields of study for incoming award holders, 2011	94
3.i	Endeavour Awards: fields of study for outgoing award holders, 2011	95
3.j	Australia Awards: overall budget allocation (%) for Development and Endeavour Awards by region in 2011	97



# Acronyms

---

<b>AAAN</b>	Australia Awards Alumni Network
<b>ACIAR</b>	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
<b>ADS</b>	Australian Development Scholarships
<b>AEI</b>	Australian Education International
<b>ALAF</b>	Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship
<b>ALAS</b>	Australian Leadership Awards Scholarship
<b>ARDS</b>	Australian Regional Development Scholarships
<b>AusAID</b>	Australian Agency for International Development
<b>CHOGM</b>	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
<b>COALAR</b>	Council on Australia Latin America Relations
<b>DEEWR</b>	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
<b>DFAT</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
<b>DIISRTE</b>	Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education
<b>JAF</b>	John Allwright Fellowship
<b>NGO</b>	non-government organisation
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>PMAA</b>	Prime Minister's Asia–Australia Awards
<b>PMPA</b>	Prime Minister's Pacific–Australia Awards
<b>PNGAAA</b>	PNG Australia Alumni Association
<b>VET</b>	Vocational Education and Training



Australia Awards recipient Selma Amwaama who received an Australian Development Award to complete a Masters in Public Health at the University of Western Australia and now works at the Swakopmund State Hospital in Namibia. Photo: courtesy of University of Western Australia.

# Quick Facts

---

-  The Australian Government has been funding international education for over **60 years**
-  Since the Colombo Plan in the 1950s, Australia has provided over **100,000** scholarships to citizens from countries around the world
-  Over **60** Australian universities and tertiary education institutions hosted international Australia Awards scholars in 2011
-  Total Australian Government expenditure for the Australia Awards in 2011 was **\$273.2 million** enabling over **4,400** recipients from over **160** countries to undertake further study, research and professional development
-  **63%** of Australia Awards for incoming recipients went to scholars from the Asia region in 2011
-  Indonesia, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea were the **3** largest recipient countries of Australia Awards for 2011
-  **46%** of all Australia Awards recipients in 2011 were women
-  Almost **50%** of all Australia Awards scholars in 2011 were between 25 and 35 years of age
-  Almost **25%** of Australia Awards for incoming Development scholars studied in the field of society and culture (economics, law, political science, development studies and international relations) and **22%** studied in the health sector
-  **16.3%** of Australia Awards for incoming Endeavour scholars studied in the fields of natural and physical sciences, and **14.8%** studied in the field of society and culture



# Executive Summary

---

Imagine a town with a population of about 5000 residents in Australia. Now imagine that each resident of the town comes from another country and represents the brightest and best in a particular field from that country. Imagine further that after a couple of years they finish their studies and return home, taking with them not only a deeper understanding of their chosen field of study but a greater knowledge of Australia and Australians.

This is in a sense what is happening every year through the Australian government's scholarship initiative, the Australia Awards. Thousands of overseas scholars are gaining a first-class education from Australian universities, eight of which are ranked among the 100 most prestigious in the world. Australian scholars are also being provided with the same opportunities to study and gain professional development at overseas institutions. These scholars are building enduring links between Australia, our regional neighbours, the broader international community and the global economy. Many go on to become leaders in their countries. One such example is Dr Boediono, the Vice President of Indonesia, who was presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Economics by the University of Western Australia in March 2011. Dr Boediono received two Australian government scholarships in 1967 and 1972.

The Australia Awards bring together scholars from Australia and overseas to become part of a network of people bound by the common thread of having studied in Australia. Many maintain strong and close contacts with each other and with Australians at very senior levels, bridging professional, personal and community connections.

## Background

Announced in late 2009, the Australia Awards are a whole-of-government initiative. It brings together Development Awards, offered by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) to people in developing countries, Endeavour Awards, offered by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) for high achieving recipients from Australia and overseas, and John Allwright Fellowship Awards, offered by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) for priority agricultural research.

The Australia Awards are part of Australia's strategic plan to help build future leaders for the 21st century, strengthen regional trade and economic linkages, and foster wide-ranging people-to-people links. They are part of a broader aim to promote cultural exchange and build mutual trust, understanding and respect between nations.

## Highlights of 2011

In 2007, the Australia Awards enabled 2173 scholars to study in Australia. By 2011, this had almost doubled to an annual figure of 4280 – more than ever before and four times more awards each year than the Colombo Plan provided at its peak. This stunning increase reflects the strategic value Australia places on Australia Awards and not purely in the monetary sense, although over \$270 million was invested in the initiative in 2011. The increase recognises the potency of education as one of the main drivers of regional and economic growth. Since 2007, 517 Australian scholars have had the opportunity to gain an international education experience.

In 2011, the Australia Awards gave 2708 scholars from Asian countries, 764 from the Pacific and 467 from African nations opportunities to do further study, research and professional development in Australia's premier universities and research institutions. Indonesia was the largest recipient country with 647 scholars coming to Australia, followed by Vietnam with 421 scholars and Papua New Guinea with 332.

With equity being an underlying principle of the initiative, it is not surprising that in 2011, 46 per cent of all Australia Awards recipients were women. Women, people from rural and remote areas and people living with disability are particularly encouraged to apply for the Australia Awards.

In 2011, almost 24.4 per cent of incoming Development Awards were for studies into society and culture<sup>1</sup>. This was followed closely by health at 22 per cent. The largest number of incoming Endeavour Awards, 16.3 per cent, went to people studying natural and physical sciences, closely followed by society and culture, engineering and related technologies. The largest number of outgoing Endeavour Awards, 21.8 per cent, went to Australians studying society and culture.

## Appointment of the Australia Awards Board

One of the main advances of the Australia Awards during 2011 was the announcement of a Board appointed by the Government and chaired by the former Premier of Western Australia, Professor Geoff Gallop AC. The Board members are all eminent representatives from government, corporate and academic sectors and include heads of the Australia Awards implementing agencies. The Board is supported by a Secretariat based in the Public Diplomacy and Information Branch of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

<sup>1</sup> Economics, Law, Policy/Political Science, Development Studies and International Relations



The Board currently has three main priorities: the first is to establish the Australia Awards brand so that the Australian government scholarship programs are consolidated under the one prestigious Australia Awards brand and become well known internationally.

The second priority is to invigorate the alumni, bringing together former scholarship holders so that they retain close ties with Australian scholars and institutions. This has the added bonus of enhancing Australia's links with a strong network of Australian or overseas-educated scholars regionally and globally, and increasing the international profile of Australia's education system. A new consolidated alumni database will be developed to support the effort.

The third priority is to strengthen partnerships with business, industry, universities and other stakeholders to provide additional opportunities for Australia Awards scholars.

## National and international highlights

2011 featured several major Australia Awards events for scholars in Australia to build professional development and leadership skills, with opportunities to meet Prime Minister Julia Gillard through networking events hosted at Parliament House in Canberra. Several major initiatives were announced including the Mining for Development initiative at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Perth, and new scholarships to support development in the Afghanistan mining sector.

If 2011 was a busy year for the Australia Awards initiative within Australia, it was equally eventful in other countries.

The year will be remembered as the one in which Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu became a patron of the Australia Awards in Africa.

In the Americas, the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd, met Mexican scholars on a ministerial visit to Mexico City in September. In Washington, two inaugural Anne Wexler scholars were also presented with certificates, as part of a Fulbright exchange strengthening ties between Australia and the United States for public policy networks.

In the Caribbean, 28 scholars were farewelled before preparing to study at Australian universities in areas that include natural resource and environmental management, fisheries and agriculture, and education. The Australia Awards benefit Overseas Development Assistance-eligible Caribbean Community and Common Market member states, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, with a \$60 million contribution over four years since 2009.

In the Asia region, Australia Awards events and activities included scholars from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. The award ceremonies, pre-departure events and high profile alumni attending demonstrated the importance of partnerships between countries, business linkages and research achieved through the Australia Awards.

In Europe, 82 scholars, mainly from the United Kingdom, Italy, German and Ireland, were selected for Endeavour Awards to study in Australia and 25 Australians received awards to study in Europe.

There were a substantial number of Australia Awards for Development scholars from Iraq and Afghanistan, and many Australians also received Endeavour Awards to study in Afghanistan, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

The Pacific received 18 per cent of the 2011 Australia Awards, the second highest of any region. Many went to scholars who will become future leaders and will manage pressing development issues, such as maternal mortality in Papua New Guinea.

## Conclusion

The Australia Awards help build bridges between people and nations by developing ongoing educational, research and professional linkages. They give international scholars an opportunity to live among Australians who have different values and norms – and get to know and develop trusting relationships. They give Australian scholars the opportunities to increase their skills and enhance their global awareness. And they create a base for extending knowledge and stretching minds. The benefit is two-way.

As one scholar put it, 'the scholarship is giving me the opportunity of a lifetime ... but it's not just about me and my family, it's about what I can do when I return....'



*Australia Awards graduation at the University of Queensland, 6 December 2011.  
Photo: courtesy of Angus Braithwaite.*



# ★ Introduction

## Australia in the 21st Century

Among the most critical dimensions of change are the convergent impacts of globalization, the increasing importance of knowledge as a main driver of growth, and the information and communication revolution. Knowledge accumulation and application have become major factors in economic development and are increasingly at the core of a country's competitive advantage in the global economy.<sup>2</sup>

The Australian Government now funds more international scholarship awards than at any time in its history, with the Asian region being the largest beneficiary. In 2011, over \$273.2 million was invested in Australia Awards, enabling over 4200 successful recipients from more than 160 countries to undertake further study, research and professional development in Australia's premier universities and research institutions. This represents a substantial and increasing commitment to international education, with funding rising by almost 28 per cent since 2010. In 2011, 133 Australians gained international education experiences in over 35 countries around the world.

The policy focus on international education in 2011 included major reviews of aid effectiveness, the establishment of the International Education Council and a relocation of Australian Education International within the restructured Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE). (See Text Box 2.2 for further details.)

Education is an important element of Australia's contemporary response to rapid change and globalisation. Knowledge is a driver for growth and involves governments, private sector stakeholders and civil society. Tertiary education institutions in Australia play a valuable role in supporting knowledge development and the construction of democratic, socially cohesive societies. Australia also recognises the long-term influence of education in shaping perceptions and understanding, and in strengthening public diplomacy between people and nations.

<sup>2</sup>Source: 'Constructing knowledge societies: new challenges for tertiary education', The World Bank, 2002

# The Australia Awards: innovative international education

The Australia Awards is a whole-of-government initiative combining the capacity and opportunity of Australia's leading government scholarship programs to promote knowledge, education links and enduring ties between Australia, its neighbours, and the global community.

The initiative was announced in November 2009 by the then Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, following an Australian Government Cabinet decision.

Education will be the driving force of the 21st Century ... Education that is illuminating, that is innovative, that is outward looking, that draws on the widest canon of ideas and that brings together young people across the continents and across the disciplines ... Education is the single most important ingredient for success in the economies of the 21st Century...<sup>3</sup>

Mr Rudd, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, officially launched the Australia Awards in Brisbane, on 13 May 2011. In his opening address he noted that:

Australia is located amongst, or engaged with, the dynamic growth centres of the 21st Century: Asia, Africa, Latin America ... and will play a key role in skilling, challenging and developing new leaders, especially in the new centres of growth of the future.

The Australia Awards provide recipients with an internationally-recognised qualification gained through unique, high quality educational experiences in Australia. The initiative offers a globally recognised scholarship program through Australian universities, eight of which are among the 100 most prestigious in the world.<sup>4</sup>

This opportunity is also extended to Australian scholars to study in countries around the world, further strengthening people-to-people ties across nations.

<sup>3</sup> Kevin Rudd, 'Address to the National University of Singapore and official announcement of the Australia Awards', Singapore, 13 November 2009.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2011>

There are currently four categories of Australia Awards available to scholars:

- 1) Development Awards - implemented by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID);
- 2) Endeavour Awards - implemented by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) / formerly the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR);
- 3) John Allwright and John Dillon Fellowship Awards - Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR); and
- 4) Anne Wexler Scholarships - Australian-American Fulbright Commission.

The principles underlying the Australian government's scholarship programs include a strong focus on equity in award applicants: gender equity, equal opportunity for minority groups or rural/remote area applicants, and encouragement for people with disabilities. (See Boxes 1.1 and 1.2.) In 2011, 46 per cent of all Australia Awards recipients were women, with almost half of all awards accepted by scholars between the ages of 25 and 35 years. (See Chapter 3 Tables 3.7 – 3.12.)

### Box 1.1: Educating girls and women yields high returns

Promoting opportunities for all is one of the five strategic goals of Australia's aid program. In education this means enabling more children, particularly girls, to attend school for a longer and better education so that they have the skills to build their own futures and, in time, escape poverty.

Australia recognises that educating girls and women yields some of the highest returns of all development investments. Education makes a significant difference to maternal, newborn and child health, to women's employment opportunities, wage levels, marriage age, fertility levels and access to decision-making. It creates the opportunity for girls to become leaders.

The Australia Awards for Development support the strategic goals of Australia's aid program by building leadership, enabling better governance and improving service delivery. Almost seven per cent of current long term scholarships are in the field of education and education is listed as a priority area in three out of the top five countries that receive scholarships (Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines). Returning scholars have made measurable improvements in the education sectors of their home countries.

## Box 1.2: Disability-inclusive awards

Australia Awards can have a major role in redefining the perception of individuals with disabilities and in Indonesia, AusAID is working through its Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) office at the individual and organisational level to make scholarships more accessible. The first Disability Carers Support Package was provided to Antoni Tsaputra in 2010 who completed postgraduate studies at Griffith University in 2011. The package enabled Antoni's carer, his father, to travel to Australia for the duration of his scholarship. (See International Events: Highlights of 2011, Antoni Tsaputra profile.)

Antoni's experiences, together with feedback from disability focus groups facilitated by AusAID's ADS Office in Jakarta, supported approaching 'disability' in a methodical manner. Working through the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Indonesian Blind Union (Pertuni) in 2011, the ADS program was able to attract applications from candidates with disabilities who might otherwise have been discouraged from applying. Pertuni helped in the production of 100 ADS application forms in Braille and distributed these through the many Pertuni branches in Indonesia. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of impressive candidates coming forward as ADS candidates – many with a visual disability, but others with a range of physical disabilities. ADS awardees with a disability can require additional support during pre-departure training and at Australian universities. The ADS program and the awardee's Australian university work with the awardee to identify what support may be needed to achieve a positive outcome, as occurred with Antoni.



The challenges faced by people with a disability in developing countries was a feature of Antoni Tsaputra's address at the launch of the World Disability Report in Canberra during 2011.

*Jaka Anom Ahmad Yusuf from the Indonesian Blind Union participating in a disability focus group discussion at the Australia Awards office, Jakarta, Indonesia, 2011.  
Photo: AusAID.*



## Australia's historical contribution to international education

The Australia Awards initiative continues Australia's long and well regarded history of delivering high quality educational development in countries around the world.

Australian education links began in the region through the Colombo Plan – established in 1951. Over 20,000 students<sup>5</sup> received Colombo Plan scholarships and fellowships to study in Australia between 1951 and 1985, primarily funded through Australia's aid program. Many recipients now occupy high-profile leadership roles in government in their respective countries. In the 1950s, Colombo Plan students represented 15–20 per cent of the international student population in Australia.

The Australia Awards initiative builds more broadly on this coordinated and generationally-recognised contribution to international education. Today Australia hosts almost 500,000 international students per year<sup>6</sup>; less than one per cent of these students receive a prestigious Australian government funded scholarship. What makes the Australia Awards distinct from the Colombo Plan, is that there are now many options open to students within their own countries along with multiple international scholarship and collaboration opportunities worldwide.

The initiative also establishes a broader mandate across a wider spectrum of Australian government agencies. There is a commitment to building future leaders for the 21st Century, strengthening regional trade and economic linkages, and facilitating a global network of shared learning and excellence in education. It is a belief in enriching cultural exchange, building mutual respect and trust between nations, and strengthening capability and commitment for a better world.

<sup>5</sup> Kevin Rudd, 'Education: The Driving Force of the 21st Century', Customs House, Brisbane, 13 May 2011.

<sup>6</sup> Australian Education International, Research Snapshot, 'International Student Numbers 2011', February 2012.

## Implementation of the Australia Awards in 2011

Over 60 Australian universities and tertiary institutions hosted 4280 Australia Awards scholars from over 160 countries in 2011. Indonesia, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea were the three largest recipients of Australia Awards, and 63 per cent of awards went to recipients from the Asia region. (See Chapter 3, Tables 3.1 – 3.6; Annex 2: Australia Awards statistics 2011.)

The Australia Awards initiative is administered by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Tertiary Education, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs who retain responsibility for the strategic direction, management and implementation of scholarships within their respective portfolios. Ministers are also responsible for keeping the Prime Minister informed on progress with the Australia Awards.

During 2011, there were four agencies responsible for the implementation and management of the four categories of Australia Awards programs.

The following section outlines the agencies and award categories provided in 2011. (See Annex 1 for further details of award categories.)

## Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID): **Development Awards**

AusAID's **Development Awards** have been an important component of the Australian government's overseas aid program since the 1950s. They aim to:

- develop capacity and leadership skills so that individuals can contribute to development in their home country; and
- build people-to-people linkages at the individual, institutional and country levels.

There are three sub-categories of Development Awards:

- Long-term awards: Australian Development Scholarships (ADS), and Australian Regional Development Scholarships (ARDS).
- Short-term awards: Australian Leadership Awards Fellowships (ALAF) and short courses.
- Supplementary awards: The Australian Leadership Award Scholarships (ALAS) for high achieving ADS applicants and the Prime Minister's Pacific-Australia (PMPA) Awards for high achieving ALAS and ADS awardees from the Pacific, PNG and Timor Leste.

The scholarships contribute to the achievement of development objectives across a range of sectors and are a feature of nearly all bilateral aid programs. AusAID works closely with its partners in developing countries to ensure that they support the development priorities of each country. The supplementary awards include work placements with Australian business and industry partners, and leadership training programs to support professional development opportunities for potential leaders. To ensure that developing countries benefit from these new skills, AusAID scholars are required to return to their home country for at least two years after the completion of their studies.

Various alumni associations have been established for scholars in different regions and countries around the world.

AusAID is the Australian Government agency responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid program. AusAID is an executive agency within the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio and reports to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The purpose of Australian aid is to help people overcome poverty. This also serves Australia's national interests by promoting stability and prosperity both in our region and beyond. AusAID's head office is in Canberra, and there are representatives in 37 Australian diplomatic missions overseas.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/makediff/aid-policy.cfm>

## Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) (formerly Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations - DEEWR): **Endeavour Awards**

The **Endeavour Awards** are an internationally competitive, merit-based scholarship program providing opportunities for citizens of the Asia–Pacific, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia. Awards are also available for Australians to undertake study, research and professional development abroad.

DIISRTE implements and manages the Endeavour Awards for incoming and outgoing international award holders. There are five sub-categories of awards for incoming recipients and four sub-categories for outgoing recipients. (See Annex 1.)

The Endeavour Awards aim to:

- develop on-going educational, research and professional linkages between individuals, organisations and countries;
- provide opportunities for high achieving individuals from Australia and overseas to increase their skills and enhance their global awareness;
- contribute to Australia's position as a high quality education and training provider, and a leader in research and innovation; and
- increase the productivity of Australians through an international study, research or professional development experience.

The Endeavour Awards Alumni Database was established in 2006. In 2011 the system was renamed Australia Awards Alumni Network (AAAN). There is currently a project underway to bring the AusAID alumni into the AAAN. The Australia Awards alumni initiatives facilitate ongoing professional development opportunities for members, raising the profile of the Australia Awards and, in turn, the alumni themselves. Being a member means participation in a global community of high-achieving individuals, accessing the activities, events, contacts and benefits offered by the Australia Awards Alumni Network.

Australian Education International (AEI) is the international arm of the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE). AEI's vision is for Australia to be recognised as a regional and world leader in education and training excellence and a partner of choice for international collaboration. AEI fosters international partnerships, ensures quality, and enhances international students' experiences through its national office in Canberra and in 16 offices in Australian diplomatic missions across the world.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.aei.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

## Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR): **John Allwright Fellowship Awards** and **John Dillon Fellowship Awards**

ACIAR offers two sub-categories of awards: the John Allwright Fellowship Awards which are co-funded by AusAID, and implemented by ACIAR; and the John Dillon Fellowship Awards, which are fully funded and implemented by ACIAR.

The **John Allwright Fellowship Awards** are long-term awards for partner-country scientists involved in ACIAR-supported collaborative research projects to undertake postgraduate training, usually at Masters or PhD level, at Australian universities. Studies focus on areas related to the topic or theme of the ACIAR project in which the awardee is engaged. Small grants are also available for John Allwright Fellows after they complete postgraduate studies and return to relevant employment in their home countries.

The **John Dillon Fellowship Awards** provide career development opportunities in Australia for outstanding mid-career agricultural scientists and economists from ACIAR partner countries. The aim is to develop the leadership skills of fellows in the areas of agricultural research management, agricultural policy and/or extension technologies through exposure to Australian agriculture across a range of best-practice organisations involved in research, extension and/or policymaking. ACIAR maintains links with John Allwright and John Dillon fellows after they return to their home countries through an alumni association.

ACIAR was established in 1982, and is a constituent agency of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Australia is a world leader in agricultural research, much of which is relevant to the challenges and opportunities available across a range of farming environments in developing countries in the Asia–Pacific region and sub-Saharan /northern Africa.

ACIAR encourages agricultural scientists in Australia to use their skills for the benefit of developing countries while also contributing to solving Australia's own agricultural problems.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> <http://aciar.gov.au/>

## Australian-American Fulbright Commission: **Anne Wexler Scholarship**

The **Anne Wexler Scholarship**, announced by the Australian Government in August 2009, is part of the Australia Awards initiative funded through DIISRTE. The awards recognise the contribution by the late Anne Wexler to fostering Australian–American relations, and are administered by the Australian–American Fulbright Commission based in Canberra, Australia.

The Anne Wexler Scholarship aims to:

- grow Australian–American educational linkages by building a network of public policy experts; and
- encourage ongoing policy exchange between Australia and the United States.

Two Wexler Scholarships are awarded annually: one for an Australian citizen to enrol in and complete a full US Masters degree in public policy and one for an American citizen to enrol in and complete a full Australian Masters degree in public policy.

The Australian–American Fulbright Commission is a non-profit organisation in Australia, established through a bi-national treaty between the Australian and United States governments in 1949 under the auspices of the United States Educational Foundation (USEFA) in Australia. The Prime Minister and the Ambassador serve as joint Honorary Co-Chairs of the Commission which is governed by a bi-national Board of Directors.

The mission of the Commission is to further mutual understanding between the people of Australia and the United States through educational and cultural exchange.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup><http://www.fulbright.com.au/index.php/about>

# Highlights of Australia Awards in 2011

---

## Appointment of the Board

To ensure a high quality global program, in May 2011 the Australian Government appointed an experienced Australia Awards Board drawn from government, corporate and academic sectors to advise on how the Australia Awards program can best achieve its objectives. Participating government agencies are represented on the Board by three ex-officio members: Secretary DIISRTE, Secretary DFAT, and Director-General AusAID. (See Box 2.1 for the Australia Awards Board Terms of Reference.)

The core purpose of the Australia Awards Board is to:

- provide broad strategic advice and guidance to the Government on the Australia Awards program; and
- inform, advocate and promote the Australia Awards program domestically and internationally, with support from line agencies and the Secretariat.

A Secretariat supports the work of the Board, coordinates whole-of-government policy approaches and acts as a conduit between the Board and implementing agencies. Housed in DFAT, the Secretariat is supported and funded by DIISRTE and AusAID, and staffed with a DFAT Director and three officers seconded from DIISRTE and AusAID.

The Australia Awards program has an initial four-year funding commitment (from 2010 to 2013) for the establishment phase which will lay the foundations of the longer-term program. DIISRTE has provided \$6 million and AusAID \$2 million to support the Board and Secretariat (including staffing).

## Box 2.1: The Australia Awards Board – Terms of Reference

- a) to identify opportunities to advocate and promote the Australia Awards, both in Australia and overseas;
- b) to provide advice to the Ministers on key features of the Australia Awards initiative, including overall strategy; branding and promotion; mechanisms to ensure that Australian government award programs are efficiently consolidated; optimal growth of number of awards offered over time; and effectiveness reviews;
- c) to provide AusAID and DIISRTE with advice and guidance on ways to promote leadership development;
- d) to oversee a reinvigorated alumni program which will help Australia Awards recipients draw on networks to advance reforms in their own countries and regions, for their own individual professional advancement, and to maintain their connections with Australia;
- e) to facilitate linkages between relevant governments, institutions, organisations, individuals, and corporate and academic bodies in pursuit of the Australia Awards program objectives;
- f) to identify sponsorship opportunities and partnerships for the Australia Awards program; and
- g) to prepare a Progress Report annually on the Australia Awards. This report will highlight the scope and effectiveness of the program, progress with implementation, and lessons learned and will provide information on numbers and costs of awards.

*Source: Australia Awards Board Charter, May 2011*





*John Tunidau, from Fiji, was a Prime Minister's Pacific award holder and undertook a work placement with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority in Sydney.*

# Introducing the Australia Awards Board



## ★ Professor Geoff Gallop AC (Chair)

- Director, Graduate School of Government, University of Sydney
- Deputy Chair, Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Council
- Member, International Education Advisory Council
- Appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2008 for service to the parliament of Western Australia, promotion of economic development and environmental sustainability and service to the community through educational, health and social reform
- Former Premier of Western Australia from 2001 to 2006
- Former Minister for Science, Western Australia – established the Science Council, and the Premier's Research Fellowship Program to attract leading researchers from overseas and interstate
- Rhodes Scholar, 1972



## ★ The Hon. Bruce Baird AM

- Chair, Tourism and Transport Forum Advisory Board
- Former Federal and New South Wales government parliamentarian, including NSW Minister for Transport and the Sydney Olympic bid
- Appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2010 for service to the Parliament of Australia, and to the community of New South Wales through a range of business, tourism and welfare organisations
- Led the 2009–2010 Review of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act



### ★ Ms Simone Bartley

- Founder - Seismic Thinking
- Former CEO and Worldwide Board Director at Saatchi & Saatchi Australia and Singapore
- Current Board Director Asia Pacific Business Coalition HIV/AIDS
- Over 20 years' experience in advertising, marketing and business working in Australia, Asia and the UK.
- Led major global brands such as Sony, HP, Lexus, Toyota, David Jones, Westpac and P&G.
- Major contributor to both White Ribbon and Reconciliation Australia Campaigns
- UNIFEM 30 most powerful women list 2007



### ★ Ms Jillian Broadbent AO

- Chancellor, University of Wollongong
- Member of the Board, Reserve Bank of Australia and a Director of ASX Limited and Woolworths Limited.
- Appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2003 for service to economic and financial development in Australia, and to the community through administrative support for cultural and charitable groups
- QANTAS/Bulletin business woman of the year in 1987



### ★ Professor Peter Coaldrake AO

- Vice-Chancellor, Queensland University of Technology
- Previously Chair of Universities Australia
- Previously Chair of Queensland Public Sector Management Commission
- Appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in January 2011 for distinguished service to higher education, particularly in Queensland, through a range of academic and executive roles, as an advocate for professional standards, to public sector policy management and reform, and for services to Australia–America relations
- Dual Fulbright Scholar

## Progress with implementation of the Australia Awards

The first Australia Awards Board meeting was held in Canberra on 16th August 2011 at Parliament House. Three major areas of initial focus were agreed:

- a) establishing the Australia Awards brand;
- b) invigorating the alumni; and
- c) building partnerships in Australia.

At this meeting, and at a second meeting held on 7th December 2011, the Board progressed work on these three areas. The Board Chair noted the requirement for a holistic approach to the Australia Awards, one that recognised the need for all stages of **the scholarship cycle** to work together to produce a strong program. Participating agencies have developed a flow chart of the Australia Awards cycle as a resource for ongoing reference. (See Figure 2.a.)

An essential focus of the Australia Awards initiative is the consolidation of the two major Australian government scholarship programs under **a single recognisable brand**. This will enhance the awareness and value placed on Australia's contemporary scholarship programs. Agencies worked with Board Member Simone Bartley through several interagency consultation processes to develop an umbrella strategy for the branding of the Australia Awards.

A **combined and invigorated alumni** is a high priority for the Board. This will enhance the post-award experience for recipients which will allow them to gain maximum benefit from their awards and retain close ties with Australian scholars and institutions. It will also foster Australia's links with a strong network of Australian-educated leaders, regionally and globally, and highlight the international profile of Australia's education system. A combined alumni program will also enable monitoring and evaluation of the success of the awards through tracking of alumni over time.

The Australia Awards **alumni database** is a keystone of the **alumni strategy**. Once the database is operational, four major areas of functionality will include: information and evaluation, promotion and messaging, decentralisation of usage, and social networking. Further investigations are underway to consider existing best practice for alumni networks, including mechanisms to facilitate student networking, engage alumni effectively and reintegrate returning scholars.

The Board will focus on strengthening **partnerships** with business, industry, universities and other stakeholders to add value to the scholarship experience. The Australia Awards initiative, with guidance from the Chair, will be working to provide positive experiences for recipients in Australia throughout the scholarship cycle. (Figure 2.a.)

Agency representatives reported an **ongoing increase in the number and quality of Australia Award applications received**. For the Endeavour Awards, the number of applications had increased by 55 per cent. AusAID also reported a significant increase in numbers of Development Awards offered in 2011 which reached a total of 3727 – almost double the number of awards in 2007.

Other AusAID highlights include the October launch of AusAID's \$127 million *Mining for Development* initiative which provides important links with the private sector, particularly in Africa; and the announcement of a \$1 million contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships Endowment Fund at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November 2011. (See National announcements and events section of this report for further details.) Other reports on the broader policy context and machinery of government changes for the Australia Awards are included in Box 2.2.

Measuring the **scope and effectiveness of the Australia Awards** will be central to the effective delivery of this prestigious Australian government scholarships initiative. The Board will consider criteria for measuring effectiveness for the Australia Awards as a future work plan item.

## Box 2.2: A brief overview of the policy context for the Australia Awards in 2011.

- The Australian National Audit Office review of AusAID's Management of Tertiary Training Assistance, tabled in May 2011, was overall supportive of Australia's tertiary assistance program noting its positive impact in countries. The assessment provided recommendations for strengthening evaluation of short and long-term impacts of scholarships. AusAID is developing an enhanced monitoring and evaluation process for scholarships incorporating post-award monitoring, alumni surveys and longer term research-based evaluations to assess impacts of scholarships.
- The new policy for Australia's aid program *An Effective Aid Program for Australia: Making a Real Difference—Delivering Real Results*, published in 2011, is the Government's response to the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness and provides clear directions for strengthening whole of Official Development Assistance (ODA) approaches.
- In October 2011, a new International Education Advisory Council was announced to develop a new long-term strategy for the international education sector. Chaired by Michael Chaney AO, the Council includes two current members of the Australia Awards Board, Professor Geoff Gallop AC and the Hon. Bruce Baird AM.
- Australia continued to enhance the international student experience, including through a review of Australia's student visa program with changes announced in November 2011.
- The Australian Government announced machinery of government changes in December 2011, including a relocation of Australian Education International (AEI) from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) to the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE).

Figure 2.a: Australia Awards Cycle\*



\*Implementing agency engagement points throughout the Australia Awards Cycle. Monitoring and evaluation at all stages of the cycle feed into program design, selection and appointment, and provide the basis for reporting to the Minister and Parliament

## Box 2.3: People-to-people links: Australia Awards Alumni - the stories

Alumni of the Australia Awards form an invaluable bridge between Australia and their home countries, fostering close and enduring people-to-people links. This report includes stories which provide an insight into the diversity and distinguished nature of Australia Awards holders across the scholarship cycle – from new recipients, through to alumni who completed their qualifications some years ago.

### **New recipients of the Australia Awards - Pre-departure**

New Australia Awards recipients from overseas are embarking on an exciting journey as a scholar in Australia. At pre-departure briefing they describe their aspirations and goals for the future, and receive an Australian welcome. Several profiles are also included from Australian recipients who are about to study overseas, outlining their future plans.

### **Current Australia Awards scholars - In-country**

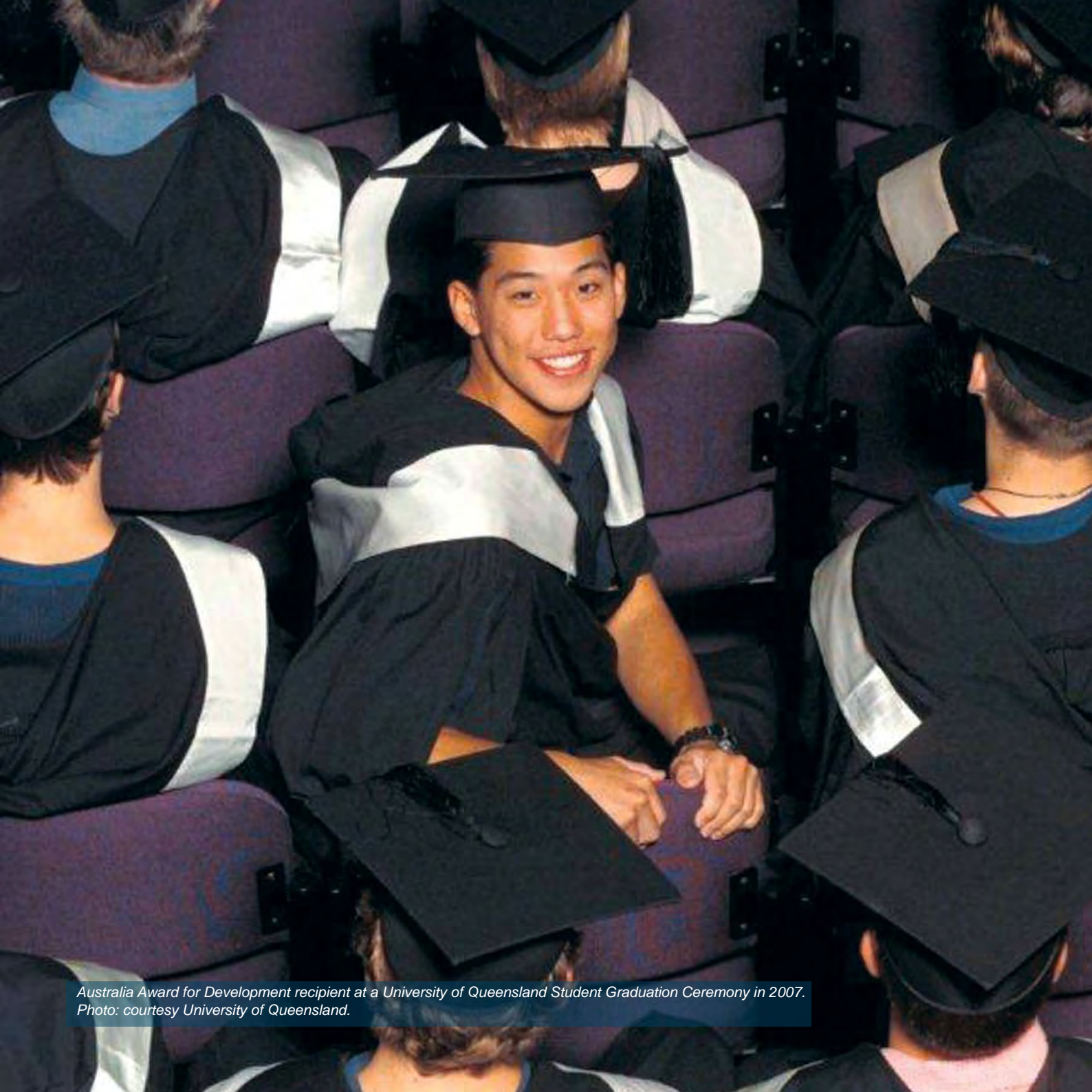
Each year there are over 4,000 scholars on award in Australia. Some of these Australia Awards recipients may be close to completion of their award and returning to their country of origin shortly. Their stories describe their Australian experience and provide some insights into their future plans. There are also Australians studying overseas – their stories reflect opportunities to learn from other countries, prior to their return to Australia.

### **Australia Awards Alumni - Post-award**

There are now almost 15,000 Australia Awards Alumni who have completed Australian government funded scholarships since 2007. There are also several alumnus who are multiple award recipients or have been an Australia Awards alumnus for up to 28 years. Their stories are about what they have achieved as a result of undertaking study in Australia. They also illustrate the longer term impact and value of these awards – to improving individual lives and, importantly, contributing to development, leadership and capability for positive global change.

The stories are evidence of the contribution the Australia Awards make to enriching individual lives, and those of the local communities, countries and regions.





*Australia Award for Development recipient at a University of Queensland Student Graduation Ceremony in 2007.  
Photo: courtesy University of Queensland.*

## National Announcements and Events: Highlights of 2011

- ★ **Vice President of Indonesia, Dr Boediono**  
**Honorary Doctorate of Economics Degree presentation**  
**University of Western Australia (UWA), Perth, March 2011**



*Dr Boediono receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Economics at the University of Western Australia in March 2011.*

The University of Western Australia presented the Vice President of Indonesia, Dr Boediono, with an Honorary Doctorate of Economics in March 2011. In his acceptance speech, Dr Boediono stated that he had earlier come to Australia ‘under the Australian Government’s Colombo Plan scholarships, a program that in my view has benefits for the relations between Australia and Indonesia’. The recipient of two Australian government scholarships, Dr Boediono graduated from UWA with a Bachelor of Economics in 1967, followed by a Masters Degree in Economics from Monash University in 1972.

Dr Boediono has since become one of Indonesia’s best-known economists, and has previously served as the Governor of the Bank of Indonesia, as the Minister of Finance and as the State Minister of National Planning and Development.

★ **Australia supporting mining governance in Afghanistan announcement, Canberra, 24 March 2011**

As part of Australia's commitment to strengthening the Afghan Government, the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd, met with the Afghan Minister of Mines, Mr Wahidullah Shahrani, and announced six new scholarships with a focus on mining skills and knowledge. Six Afghan public servants will commence their postgraduate scholarships at Australian universities in 2012, and it is hoped that they will return to senior managerial positions in the Afghan Government, where they will design and implement national mining policy.

‘The surge in the Afghan mining sector has enormous potential to improve the country’s economic sustainability. Australia’s expertise in mining exploration, extraction, processing, transport, environmental protection and legislation has Australia well placed to offer specialised education in this area’, said Mr Rudd.

More than 100 Australian Development Scholarships have been awarded to Afghan citizens since 2009. Previous Australia Awards recipient from Afghanistan, Ms Ghazaal Habibyar, completed a Master of International and Development Economics degree in December 2009 at the Australian National University and, upon returning to Afghanistan, became the Director of Policy in the Afghan Ministry of Mines.

## ★ Future leaders of developing countries meet in Canberra, March 2011

In Canberra, AusAID Director General Peter Baxter welcomed more than 180 current and emerging leaders from 32 countries to the Leadership for Development Conference in March 2011. For the first time, participants from Latin American and Caribbean countries and Burma (Myanmar) joined attendees mostly from Asia and the Pacific.

The conference is the flagship event of the Leadership Development Program offered to Australian Leadership Award scholarship recipients in addition to their studies. These scholarships offer postgraduate study opportunities in Australia to exemplary scholars from developing nations. They enhance leadership, build partnerships and accelerate progress toward the Millennium Development Goals in developing countries.



*L-R: Fitriani Ardiansyah; Dr Tantry Maulina; Meuthia Alvernia Naim; Martha Yahimbu Mungkaje; Alexander Rheeeney; Richard Marles, Rita Pranawati; Afi Nurbaiti Hadimadja.*

Conference speakers included: Matilda House, traditional land owner and Chair of the Ngambri Local Aboriginal Land Council; David Bussau AM, social entrepreneur and founder of Opportunity International; Professor Fiona Wood FRACS AM, Director Burns Service Western Australia and a living treasure; Jimmy Pham, CEO and founder of Know One – Teach One (KOTO), an Australian-Vietnamese charity for underprivileged youth in Vietnam; Waleed Aly, lecturer in politics at Monash University; Professor Geoff Gallop AC, Director of Graduate School of Government at the University of Sydney; Professor Tim Flannery, Chief Commissioner of the Climate Commission; and Dr Jeff McMullen AM, CEO (Honorary) of Ian Thorpe's Foundation for Youth.

Parliamentary Secretary Richard Marles hosted a reception to welcome the scholars at Parliament House and presented seven top scholars from Papua New Guinea and Indonesia with the prestigious Allison Sudradjat Awards. Allison Sudradjat was a senior AusAID representative in Papua New Guinea and was head of Australia's aid program in Indonesia, when she died in a plane crash in Indonesia on 7 March 2007.

Director General Peter Baxter joined representatives from the diplomatic corps, other departments and Australian NGOs as well as Endeavour Executive awardees for the conference dinner at the National Museum Australia. In his closing remarks, Mr Baxter commented on the success of the conference and its significance in demonstrating the direction of AusAID's development strategy.

### ★ **Australia Awards launch and networking event, Customs House, Brisbane, 13 May 2011**



*Mr Rudd addressing scholarship recipients and guests at the Australia Awards launch in Brisbane, May 2011.*

The Australia Awards initiative was officially launched in Brisbane on 13 May 2011, by the then Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd with the announcement of membership of the Australia Awards Board, to be chaired by Professor Geoff Gallop AC. The event was the first networking and alumni event for the Australia Awards and was attended by over 200 Australia Awards scholarship recipients from across the world, many of whom were studying in Queensland.

## ★ 2011 Endeavour Awards Professional Development national workshops, April to May 2011

The 2011 Endeavour Awards Professional Development Workshops were half-day events open to all award holders and alumni to provide them with tools, skills and tips towards their professional development. Featuring an expert speaker on performance management, Mr Andrew May, the workshops covered topics such as maximising personal potential and working with teams. The workshops also provided a networking opportunity for award holders and alumni – across the Endeavour Awards community – and more broadly with other guests invited to attend the social function at the close of the day. The workshops were held in Sydney, Adelaide, Canberra, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth in April and May 2011.

The 2012 Professional Development Workshops will be held in Australian capital cities from March to May 2012.

## ★ ACIAR John Allwright Fellows meeting, Canberra, September 2011



*John Allwright Fellows (JAF) and ACIAR program leaders at the Griffin Hotel, Canberra during JAF week, September 2011.*

In the week of 26 September 2011 ACIAR held the annual John Allwright Fellows meeting in Canberra with 22 postgraduate students from various universities in attendance.

The meeting provided a good opportunity for the students to get together with their fellowship colleagues and to meet ACIAR staff, both socially and in a workshop situation. Students provided presentations on their research progress and anticipated outcomes.

## ★ Mining for Development Initiative Launch, Perth, 25 October 2011

The Australian Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, launched AusAID's \$127 million *Mining for Development* initiative on 25 October 2011 in the lead-up to the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth. The initiative aims to help developing countries maximise the benefits from their mining sector. It includes Australian Mining Awards (\$29.3 million) which comprise short-course, undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships in mining. The first scholarship holders commence study in Australian universities in February 2012. These awards are under the umbrella of the Australia Awards and are selected, awarded and managed as part of AusAID's broader Development Awards.

## ★ Prime Minister's Australia Awards briefing program and presentation dinner, Parliament House, Canberra, 7 December 2011

Prime Minister Julia Gillard recognised the recipients of the 2012 Prime Minister's Asia–Australia (PMAA) Awards and the 2011 Prime Minister's Pacific–Australia (PMPA) Awards on 7 December 2011 at a function at Parliament House, Canberra.

The PMAA Awards are awarded to 60 high-achieving university students from Australia and Asia. The awards provide 40 scholarships annually to Australian university students – 20 at undergraduate level and 20 at postgraduate level – and 20 scholarships to the top international Endeavour Postgraduate Award scholars from Asia each year.

Australian recipients in the 2012 round represent institutions from six states and territories, undertaking study or research in a diverse range of fields that include creative arts, biomedical engineering, psychology and marketing. The award holders will undertake academic programs and internships in nine countries and regions in Asia during 2012.

The PMPA Awards supplement existing Australian Development Scholarships and Australian Leadership Awards Scholarships for postgraduate students from the Pacific region, including Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. The awards, which commenced in 2010, feature an in-Australia work placement designed to be undertaken at the end of formal studies, as well as a leadership development workshop. The 2011 awardees are from Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. They are studying or undertaking research in fields relevant to the development priorities of their home country, including primary health care, education, mining, trade and economic development, public policy, and climate change.



*Award holders with Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Senator Chris Evans.  
Photo: courtesy of Peter Robey.*

The Prime Minister's Awards presentation dinner was held on 7 December 2011 in the Great Hall of Parliament House. Prior to the event, the award holders enjoyed a photo opportunity with the Prime Minister.

More than 200 people attended the presentation dinner including members of the Diplomatic Corps and representatives from Australian universities.





*Le Hong Hiep receives his award from Senator Chris Evans and DIISRTE (formerly DEEWR) Deputy Secretary, Robert Griew. Photo: courtesy of Peter Robey.*



*Senator Chris Evans and James Batley, AusAID Deputy Director General present the 2011 Prime Minister's Pacific Australia Award to Delilah Konaka of PNG who completed a Master of Education at the University of Canberra in 2011. Photo: courtesy of Peter Robey.*

## International Events: Highlights of 2011 (by region)

### ★ Africa

The Australia Awards are the flagship of Australia's re-engagement in Africa with awards increasing from a modest 100 per year in 2008 to 467 in 2011 through AusAID's Development Awards. Citizens from 36 countries received awards in 2011. The **Australia Africa Awards** were announced by Foreign Minister Rudd in a speech in Addis Ababa on 27 January 2011. The Australian Government has committed to providing up to 1000 long- and short-term awards annually by 2012–13. On 28 September 2011, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu agreed to become the patron of the Australia Africa Awards initiative.



'The Australian Government has committed to expanding Australia Awards for development. I support the efforts of the Australian Government fully and enthusiastically'.

*Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu – Patron of Australia Africa Awards.*

Australia is emphasising the development of leadership skills as a priority in the Australia Awards. The Australian Leadership Award (ALA) Fellowships and ALA Scholarships were made available in Africa for the first time in 2011. Ninety-eight fellows from Africa undertook fellowships in Australia in 2011.

The ALAS short-term training opportunities have been completed by 98 African students in the past year. The scholarships provided African Masters level awardees with additional leadership and mentoring during their time in Australia.

An important part of Australia Awards for Africa is preparing the awardees for their life in Australia. In 2011, ten pre-departure briefings were organised in eight African locations: Abuja, Accra, Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Lilongwe, Maputo, Port Louis, and Pretoria for 350 awardees. Australian heads of mission accredited to these countries joined with AusAID in congratulating those selected for scholarships to study in Australia.



*Zambia (33 Masters level awardees) and Malawi (32 Masters level awardees) selected in 2011 to commence studies in Australia in 2012. The awardees are seen here with the Australian High Commissioner, HE Matthew Neuhaus and Mrs Angela Neuhaus (centre), in Lilongwe, Malawi.*



## Chala Turo

Due to commence his award in 2012

**Development Award:**

Australian Leadership Award Scholarship,  
PhD in Plant Pathology  
Curtin University, Perth

### Addressing food security through application of food science

Chala Turo from Ethiopia is set to undertake an agricultural PhD at Curtin University. He obtained his first science degree at Mekelle University in northern Ethiopia where he studied dryland crop science. After this, he completed a Masters degree in agriculture (plant pathology) at Haramaya University, 2006–2009.

‘When I was at Bachelor of Science level my lecturer was very impressed with my interest in plant diseases, particularly the way plants struggle against pathogens to repel them.’

Chala recognises that pulse crops are very important in Ethiopia because people who cannot

afford beef require amino acids from chickpeas, lentils and field peas. Researchers at Curtin University are pursuing new initiatives in fungal plant pathology, giving Chala the opportunity to study in this field with Australian experts.

‘The problem with field peas is they get attacked by a fungus, which destroys the foliar parts of the plant and reduces productivity in local crops by up to 22 per cent, including occasional complete crop failure. This is also a challenge in Australia where it can reduce outputs by 18 per cent.’



# Peggy Mugala

Due to commence her award in 2012

## **Development Award:**

Australian Leadership Award Scholarship,  
Master of Midwifery  
Flinders University, Adelaide

John Hopkins University recognised Peggy's commitment and following her graduation with her first degree from Lusaka University, trained her as a facilitator in post-partum haemorrhaging work involving the active management of the third stage of labour.

Armed with fresh skills, Peggy travelled from one Zambian province to another, teaching nurses how to reduce maternal mortality. She is currently principal of a midwifery training school at a mission hospital in a remote rural area and she is refreshingly candid about local shortcomings. Peggy Mugala is a popular figure in her community because she feels compelled to do something to improve the lives of the women and children.

## Addressing maternal mortality in Africa

Peggy Mugala has dedicated the past 20 years of her life to working for the Ministry of Health in Zambia.

‘Education is the key to everything,’ Peggy says with conviction. ‘From my first diploma course at the Kitwe School of Nursing during 1988–1991, I went for midwifery training and since I was a hard worker, I received an award from the Lusaka Urban District. After this, I started managing some of the health sectors to act as a trainer-of-trainers for life-saving skills and emergencies.’

‘As a midwife I really want to strengthen obstetric healthcare and the first thing we need are more skills and resources to do this. People have to walk too far for health services in my country so this is something I’m determined to address and we also need to address the immunisation of children.’

# ★ Americas

Foreign Minister Rudd announced the **Australia Americas Awards** during a speech at Alberto Hurtado University on 18 December 2010. The awards cover Latin America, the Caribbean and North America and form part of Australia's \$100 million investment in development assistance to Latin America over four years through to 2014.

Successful Australia Awards recipients for the 2012 intake participated in farewell functions held across the Americas region in Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico City, Argentina and Chile. Events were attended by diplomatic representatives, and representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education, Mining and Energy, Science and Technology, the Council on Australia Latin America Relations, and the Chilean Cooperation Agency.

The year culminated in a visit by Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd to **Mexico** in September 2011, during which he met with Mexican scholars, showcasing the achievements of the Australia–Mexico relationship.



*Minister for Foreign Affairs Kevin Rudd with Mexican scholars at an official event in Mexico, September 2011.*

In the United States, the **inaugural Anne Wexler scholars** were presented with their certificates and a special ceremonial plate by Australian glass artist Peter Crisp, at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC on 18 April 2011.

The inaugural scholars are:

**Ms Caroline Adler:**

a Masters student in public policy at Harvard University's John F Kennedy School of Government. Caroline's research explores innovative workforce development policy interventions for low-income communities. Her goal is to develop social enterprise solutions to help urban Australians who experience long-term poverty to gain work skills and achieve increased economic opportunities.

**Ms Katherine Thurber:**

a 2011 graduate of Harvard University with a major in Psychology and Global Health. Katherine is undertaking a Master of Philosophy at the ANU Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, studying nutrition among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. She plans to use this research as the basis for further studies of nutrition among populations within the United States, such as Native Americans and the Inuit.



Anne Wexler Scholarship recipients Caroline Adler and Katherine Thurber with the Australian Ambassador to the United States, HE Kim Beazley, Washington DC, April 2011.

# Mariá José Céspedes

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 2011

## **Development Award:**

Australian Leadership Award Scholarship,  
Master of Development Studies  
University of Sydney, Sydney



## Working towards poverty reduction in Mexico

Mariá José Céspedes, from Mexico, was born a natural leader. At high school and at university she was part of the students' councils, and elected student representative before the administrative and professors' councils. In Australia, she has upgraded these natural skills with an ALAS while undertaking her Masters at the University of Sydney.

'Australia is the perfect place to undertake this study program because I will have the benefit of studying with a wide variety of people, and because it is a pioneer in development studies programs.'

'My studies will enable me to find the tools I need to apply what other countries are doing in development issues and learn from their practices, testimonials; I will be able to work in Mexico with a new point of view, which is really necessary in my country in order to advance. The time I spent in Australia was amazing, I found friends that will remain very close to my heart, and it gave me the chance to meet people from all over the world.'

Before studying in Australia Mariá was Managing Director of Sanando Heridas A.C., a local NGO working with rural communities in the highlands of Chiapas. Sanando Heridas focuses on providing health education and services to indigenous Tsotsil and Tzeltal communities.

On her return to Mexico in January, Mariá joined Ashoka, an international NGO that invests in social entrepreneurs working on new solutions for global problems. She is coordinating the strategic resources area and is adapting the knowledge gained in Australia to the Latin American context. Her hope is that the development sector in Mexico will evolve with people understanding that we can all do something to make the world a better place.

'If I could keep devoting my everyday life to improving the conditions of life of the people in my country and get to see results, then I will have fulfilled my dream.'



## Addressing the challenges of water shortages in Chile

Juan is a water engineer from Iquique, Chile, and has received an Australia Award to study with the UNSW Water Research Laboratory. There he will be participating in some of the most advanced research in groundwater/surface water interactions in Australia. This research will help to address specific water management issues in northern Chile where the Atacama Desert is located – one of the driest areas on earth with less than 1mm of rainfall each year.

‘My vision is to generate a real, tangible and practical contribution to the resolution of northern Chile’s water scarcity problem.’

Water is a challenging issue, particularly with the complexities between public wellness, economic development and environment and limited natural resources. Juan aims to play an active role in groundwater management on his return to northern Chile, with a deeper understanding of the groundwater processes and enhanced groundwater science skills.

‘I would like to become a bridge for Australian researchers to potentially begin conducting groundwater research in Chile in the near future. My supervisors are showing great interest in the challenges we face as a country and really look forward to testing their methods with us. Chile and Australia share many common problems in the management and sustainability of its groundwater resources, and the scientific potential is promising.’

Juan is grateful for the opportunity to study at UNSW and believes that Australia’s investment in international scholarships will benefit recipient scholars’ home countries.

## Juan Carlos Castilla

Due to finalise his award in 2012

**Development Award:**  
Australian Leadership Award  
Scholarship,  
Masters of Engineering in  
Water Resources  
University of New South Wales,  
Sydney



## Bangladesh

Over the past ten years the Australian Government has awarded more than 600 scholarships to Bangladesh. At a ceremony in Dhaka on 7 December 2011, the Australian High Commissioner, Dr Justin Lee, congratulated 64 scholarship recipients on their achievement noting that:

‘Australia is committed to continuing our support for human resource development in Bangladesh to promote social and economic development and to further strengthen people-to-people ties between our countries.’

Dr Lee said the scholarships would strengthen Bangladesh’s capacity in key sectors such as education, health, public financial management, public administration, governance and climate change.

Mr Asif-uz-Zaman, Joint Chief of the Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, also attended, congratulating the awards recipients and expressing his thanks to Australia for its valuable support and cooperation. The scholarships are funded annually and managed by AusAID. For many years they have formed an important part of Australia’s bilateral aid program for Bangladesh.



*The Australian High Commissioner, HE Justin Lee, (3rd row centre) with successful recipients of Australian Development Scholarships for post-graduate studies in Australia to commence in 2012.*



## Seiji Armstrong

Due to finalise his award in 2013

### **Endeavour Award:**

Prime Minister's Australia Asia

Postgraduate Award,

PhD candidate in Quantum Science - Outgoing,

Centre of Excellence for Quantum Atom Optics,

Australian National University and

University of Tokyo, Japan

### Revolutionising the world of computing

As part of his PhD candidature in Quantum Science at Australian National University, Seiji Armstrong travelled to the University of Tokyo with the ambition of working with the Furusawa group, renowned leaders in the field of quantum optics and quantum information fields.

'Almost on a daily basis my mind is blown when I see flashes of genius from any one of the researchers.'

Seiji hopes that his research discoveries may one day contribute towards building a quantum computer, revolutionising the world of computing. Through his award, he has developed valuable international networks to assist him with this aim and he has already been offered two exciting employment opportunities on completion of his PhD.



*Uuong Kimseng, Australian Alumni Association of Cambodia representative, distributing relief packages to village communities in flood damaged provinces of Cambodia.*

## Bhutan

Australian Education International (AEI) New Delhi held an Australian alumni reception in Bhutan, on 1 December 2011. More than 200 alumni attended the reception jointly organised by AEI and AusAID at Taj Thimpu. Aum Sangay Zam, Secretary, Ministry of Education and Dasho Pema Thinley, Vice Chancellor, Royal University of Bhutan, were in attendance. The book *Endeavours of Excellence* (see India report) was launched and certificates provided to the Australia Awards recipients. These included 96 Endeavour Award holders. The event was the first Australian alumni event in Bhutan.

## Cambodia

In **Cambodia**, the Australian Ambassador, HE Penny Richards hosted an Australia Awards event in March 2011 to provide information on the awards for government ministry officials and key private sector organisations. Senior government representatives attending this event included HE Mam Bung Heng, Minister for Health, the secretaries of state and under-secretaries of state, together with heads of national and international NGOs, representatives from the private sector and other target stakeholders.

The Australian Alumni Association of Cambodia (AAA-C) was officially established in 2002 and has become one of the largest alumni associations in the country. In November 2011, members embarked on a fund-raising campaign to help flood victims in the Kampong Thom province and provided relief supplies for the poorest families.

# Tia Phalla

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 1997

## **Development Award:**

Australian Development Scholarship,  
Masters of Public Health

University of New South Wales, Sydney



## Decreasing the prevalence of HIV/ AIDS and saving lives in Cambodia

Tia Phalla completed a Masters of Public Health at the University of New South Wales through the ADS program and returned to Cambodia in 1997.

Tia Phalla praised his Australian experience highlighting areas of both academic and personal benefit. After the trauma of the Khmer Rouge era he found the security, order, calm, social cohesion and normalcy of Australian society a solid reminder of what life should be like. The experience also confirmed to him the importance of the core values of integrity, transparency, social responsibility, and the individual's right to speak his mind.

Prior to his departure for Australia, Tia Phalla held the position of Director of the National Centre of HIV AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Dermatology. On his return in 1998, he was appointed Deputy Director and then promoted to Secretary General of the National AIDS Authority.

In these positions Tia Phalla has promoted a multi-sectoral approach to HIV prevention and AIDS treatment, engaging education, women's affairs, health and defence sectors.

Tia Phalla is proud of his achievements and the regional and international recognition that Cambodia has gained for his efforts in reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS. In 2010 he received a United Nations award for his work in decreasing HIV/AIDS prevalence in Cambodia from 1.7% in 1998 to 0.8% in 2010. Tia Phalla stated that his focus now is on the integrity of his ministry and its influence on policy and strategy. He sees the principal challenge to Cambodia's development as being the disparity between the poor majority and the affluent minority.

'The Australian scholarship consolidated my core values of integrity, the right to freedom of speech, collaboration, openness – this was the key to my subsequent professional success. Although it is many years since I received the scholarship, colleagues are still impressed that I was an Australian scholarship recipient and especially that I was a member of one of the earliest cohorts to study in Australia. This scholarship is respected and valued throughout Cambodia.'

# Dr El Sotheary

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 2009

John Allwright Fellowship,  
PhD in Integrative Systems  
University of Queensland, Brisbane

## Helping farmers adopt improved technologies in Cambodia

As the deputy head of the Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute's (CARDI) socioeconomics division, Dr El Sotheary seeks to understand the social and economic circumstances that prevent farmers from adopting improved technologies and production practices. The many responsibilities of her position are all aimed towards improving the living standards for the 8.3 million Cambodians who the World Bank estimates rely on agriculture for their livelihoods.

'Living in a country where agriculture is the leading sector of the country's economy, I have always been enthusiastic to work as an agricultural socioeconomist with the ultimate goal of helping to improve the living conditions of Cambodian farmers who have suffered in poverty for decades.'



ACIAR John Allwright Fellow, Dr El Sotheary (second from right), facilitates a workshop for agricultural extension staff and farmers in Cambodia.

Dr Sotheary joined CARDI in 2000 and, keen to move into a senior position, applied to ACIAR for a John Allwright Fellowship. The fellowship took her to the University of Queensland where, in 2009, she completed a PhD through the School of Natural and Rural Systems Management (now the School of Integrative Systems). Dr El Sotheary says she regularly applies the knowledge and skills she gained in Australia to her work at CARDI.



## Sophie Smith

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI,  
2011

**Endeavour Award:**  
Prime Minister's Australia Asia Award -  
Undergraduate Outgoing,  
Peking University, Beijing, China

## China

### Ethnomusicology links between Australia and China

Prime Minister's Australia Asia Award holder Sophie Smith travelled to the People's Republic of China to build on her academic background in sociology and anthropology, with a particular interest in ethnomusicology. During her award, Sophie exhibited an inspiring enthusiasm for learning which was noted by her various supervisors, developed strong links with other award holders, gave numerous (singing) performances and improved her Chinese language skills.

As part of her award, Sophie interned at a diverse range of institutions, initially commencing in a coursework program at Peking University where she excelled in studies of culture and ethnicity. Following this, she travelled to the Linden Centre in China's Yunnan province where she undertook personal research projects in ethnomusicology and cultural heritage, giving her unique access to local music groups and cultural sites, as well as the opportunity to observe local traditions.

Sophie undertook a six month internship with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Beijing, before completing her Endeavour Award.



# Dr Harman Kullar

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 2011

**Endeavour Award:**  
Prime Minister's Australia Asia  
Postgraduate Award - Outgoing,  
Chinese Academy of Social Science, Beijing



## Elementary education in China

Harman Kullar completed a PhD at Monash Asia Institute. Her Prime Minister's Australia Asia Award allowed her to pursue her interest in aspects of education in China that will complement her doctoral research on Indian elementary education. Based at the Chinese Academy of Social Science in Beijing, she worked regularly in a state primary school.

While in China she also made two visits to Hong Kong University to discuss Chinese education with researchers at the acclaimed Wah Ching Center of Research on Education in China. Those researchers and her Beijing friends assisted Harman to make contact with primary schools outside Beijing, allowing her to spend time in a school for migrant children in a provincial centre and visit schools in remote parts of other provinces in China.

'I love teaching ... taking classes one morning each week in the local primary school was a continuing pleasure. The satisfaction of working with children eager to learn was multiplied by discussion with their teachers, who were informed and reflective about the art and discipline of teaching.'

## Hong Kong

A presentation ceremony and reception for postgraduate Endeavour Award holders and exchange students under the Endeavour Cheung Kong Student Exchange Program was held in Hong Kong on 11 March 2011. The event was organised by AEI Hong Kong to honour the recipients of these scholarship programs from Australia and Hong Kong. The ceremony was officiated by the Australian Consul-General in Hong Kong, Les Luck, the Chief Executive Officer of Australian Education International, Colin Walters, and Group Managing Director, Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Ltd, H L Kam.

The event was attended by 85 guests, including representatives from Hong Kong and Australian tertiary institutions, education authorities and organisations, Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Ltd, Austrade Hong Kong, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian state governments, the Australian Alumni Association in Hong Kong, and Australia Awards holders from 2008 to 2011 and their families and friends.

From 2007 to 2012, 20 Endeavour Awards have been accepted by citizens and/or permanent residents of Hong Kong to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia. There have been 35 reciprocal awards for Australians in Hong Kong, of which 18 have been Prime Minister's Australia Asia Awards.

## India

On 16 February 2011, the Australian High Commissioner to India, HE Peter Varghese, and the Secretary, Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ms Vibha Puri Das, launched *Endeavours of Excellence* – a publication profiling Australian government scholars from India and South and Southeast Asia. The book was developed by Australian Education International Malaysia and other Australian Education International offices across the region. The event, attended by over 200 people on 16 February 2011, coincided with an official awards ceremony for the 2011 Endeavour awardees from India of which two were Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour awardees.



L-R: David Holly (Consul-General, Chennai); Sanket Shetty - Sports award; Akash Mehta (collected award on behalf of Raghav Sachar - Arts and Culture); Vinod Mirchandani (collected on behalf of Dr J Gowrishankar – Research and Innovation); Ameeta Mulla Wattal - Outstanding Australia Awards Endeavour Alumni; Senator Chris Evans; Sahil Shroff - Outstanding Young Alumni; Karthikeyan Vaitheeswaran - Community Service; Mr Balakrishnan Sundararajan (collected the award on behalf of Narayana Murthy - Honorary Award); and Ravi Lochan Singh - Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

Following the book launch, a series of Australia Awards presentations was held at the Australian Education Excellence Showcase across nine cities in India and in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 16 February – 4 March 2011. Presentations highlighted the quality, innovation and leadership of the Australian education and training sector, with a focus on higher education. 35 Australian institutions, including the University of Melbourne, the University of New South Wales, the Australian National University, the University of Technology Sydney, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and the University of Tasmania participated in the showcase events.

On 3 August, the 2nd Annual Australian Alumni Excellence Awards was held in Chennai. Senator Chris Evans presented awards to Indian alumni for outstanding contributions in specific categories through work or study. The awards showcased Australia’s education excellence, and recognised the achievements of alumni across a diverse range of fields, including art and culture, sports, business leadership, innovation and research, community and alumni service, as well as an honorary award.

The 2011 award winner of the *Outstanding Australia Awards Endeavour Alumni award*, sponsored by Australian Education International, was Ms Ameeta Wattal, Principal, Springdales School, Delhi. Ms Wattal was the recipient of an Endeavour Executive Award in 2010.



## Shaun Star

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 2011

### **Endeavour Award:**

Prime Minister's Postgraduate Award,  
Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing) and  
Bachelor of Laws - Outgoing,  
National Law School of India, Bangalore

### Linkages through law between Australia and India

Shaun Star was initially attracted to India due to its growing importance in the Asia-Pacific region and the similarities between the legal professions in India and Australia. Shaun excelled academically during his study in India, achieving a distinction average. These subjects were credited to his Macquarie University degree for which he received a Vice Chancellor's commendation prize and was ranked first of 265 graduates.

Shaun co-founded the Australia–India Youth Dialogue which brought together 30 exceptional young people from India and Australia to discuss issues that were relevant to the younger generation. The inaugural dialogue took place in Mumbai and Delhi in early 2012. He also facilitated the signing of

a MoU between the National Law School of India and his home institution Macquarie University that will enable future student exchanges and academic collaborations between the two universities.

'After studying, living and working in India for the past 18 months, my whole career perception has changed. The Endeavour Award provided me with the skills and knowledge to be involved in the future of this exciting Australia–India space. I am looking forward to it!'

## Indonesia

### ★ **Winners of the 4th Australian Alumni Awards event, Australian High Commission, 11 June 2011, Jakarta**

The Australian Alumni Awards, presented annually, acknowledge the contributions to Indonesia's progress made by tens of thousands of Indonesians who have studied at Australian schools, universities and technical colleges.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was awarded to Vice President Prof. Dr Boediono and to Vice Minister for Trade Mahendra Siregar. Dr Boediono is one of Indonesia's leading economists and former Governor of the Bank of Indonesia, Minister of Finance and State Minister of National Planning and Development. Mr Siregar has been Vice Minister for Trade since November 2009, with previous roles as the Chairman and CEO of Indonesian Eximbank and Deputy Coordinating Minister for Economic Cooperation and International Financing.



*Ambassador Greg Moriarty with Prime Minister's Australia Asia Award holder, Nicholas Parsons, Jakarta, 14 December 2011.*

'I am delighted to celebrate the 4th Australian Alumni Awards, an event that recognises outstanding achievements by a remarkable group of Indonesians in their chosen fields. It is a rewarding experience for me to see so many Indonesians return from their studies in Australia and make significant contributions to Indonesia's progress', said Australian Ambassador Moriarty.

## ★ Australia Awards Ceremony, Jakarta, 14 December 2011

On 14 December 2011, the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, HE Greg Moriarty, in a ceremony held in Jakarta presented Australia Awards to 43 high-achieving Indonesians to continue their studies or research in Australia in 2012. The awardees included seventeen ALAS recipients, four of whom received Alison Sudradjat Awards (ASA) and 26 Endeavour Award holders, four of whom received the prestigious Prime Minister's Australia Asia Award.

'This is a great achievement for the Indonesian recipients of the Award as they have competed against the best scholars from around the world for these highly prized and prestigious scholarships,' said Ambassador Moriarty. 'Through these awards, Australia will be supporting Indonesia's development by supporting its future leaders and scholars in their studies. The Awards will also build long-term and enduring people-to-people links between Australia and Indonesia.'

Speaking on behalf of the Indonesian recipients, Andrey Y. Damaledo, a recipient of the Alison Sudradjat Award, thanked the Australian Government for providing opportunities for his fellow Indonesians to further their study and research in Australia. Mr Damaledo said:

'I see the Australia Awards as an expression of the excellent Australia-Indonesia partnership. As President Yudhoyono said, We are not just neighbours. We are not just friends. We are strategic partners. I am convinced that partnership through education is more effective in the long run as it promotes individual, institutional and regional partnership.'

At the ceremony, Ambassador Moriarty also launched the Australia Awards Indonesia 2010 Update publication which looks at the impact the Australia Awards have had in Indonesia.



Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd with Australia Awards recipients in Jakarta.

# Antoni Tsaputra

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 2011

**Development Award:**  
Australian Development Scholarship,  
Masters in Journalism and Mass  
Communication,  
Griffith University, Brisbane

## Pursuing a career in journalism to improve advocacy for disability support services in Indonesia

Antoni Tsaputra of Bukittinggi, West Sumatra, is a man with a mission to remove the obstacles that impede people with disabilities from living their lives as fully as they dream. 'Nobody wants to be born with disability, but I don't let any of this stop me,' Antoni says of the birth defect that left him unable to move from the hips down.

Antoni insisted on going to public rather than specialised schools throughout his schooling, including his undergraduate degree in English literature at Universitas Andalas in Padang, West Sumatra. Graduating in 2000, he continued on campus as an assistant lecturer, while working as a freelance translator and setting up a small English language school. In 2004, Antoni began working for the Padang municipal administration's communications department and, when an earthquake shook the region in 2009, used his garage to teach local children whose school had collapsed.



Applying for an Australian Development Scholarship in 2009, Antoni saw it as a chance to expand his knowledge and to further make an impact. In January 2010, he was awarded an ADS and became the first recipient of the ADS Disability Carers Package providing for his father Effendi as his principal carer, to accompany him to Australia while he completed his Masters in Journalism and Mass Communication at Griffith University.

Antoni hopes to use his enhanced communication skills to leverage the mass media towards a movement that will result in improved rehabilitation and support services in Indonesia.

**'It is my greatest passion now to encourage people with disabilities to fight for their rights.'**



## Japan



### International Human Rights Law

Jade Cooper's commitment to strengthening relationships between Japan and its international partners proved integral to a highly successful award experience as well as creating future career opportunities. Jade commenced the eighteen-month study and internship program in international and human rights law at Osaka University, while volunteering at the West Japan Immigration Detention Centre.

## Jade Cooper

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 2011

### Endeavour Award:

Prime Minister's Australia Asia Award  
Undergraduate Award - Outgoing,  
Osaka University, Japan

A six-month internship in Tokyo with the Japan Institute of International Affairs followed, with Jade's research contributing to foreign policy advice provided by the institute to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Jade spent the final six months of the program with the Protection Unit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Tokyo Office, during which the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami struck the north-eastern coast of Japan.

Jade's award experience and her internship with UNHCR Tokyo have assisted in her securing an internship with the Protection Division of Malaysia UNHCR in Kuala Lumpur. She has also been selected for AusAID's prestigious Summer Vacation Employment Program, working with the disability-inclusive development team of the Governance Unit utilising her two majors of international relations and human rights law.

'My Endeavour Award has provided me with experiences that have on a professional level strengthened my resolve to apply my legal skills and knowledge to improve the situations of those most in need, and on a personal level given me hope for humankind's collective capacity in times of need.'

## Malaysia

The Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, HE Miles Kupa, presented Endeavour Awards to twelve Malaysians at a ceremony held on 12 January 2012, in Kuala Lumpur. The awardees will pursue studies in Australia in areas such as human rights law and policy, business management, medicine and biological sciences.

## Nepal

AEI New Delhi held an Australian Alumni reception in Kathmandu on 29 November 2011 to **celebrate 60 years of Australian government scholarships**. The reception was jointly sponsored by AEI, AusAID, Austrade and DFAT to celebrate the many achievements of Australian alumni in Nepal; to launch the book *Endeavours of Excellence*; and to present certificates to the 2012 Australia Awards recipients, including eleven Endeavour Awards recipients. The event was attended by around 200 people, including members of the Association of Nepalese Alumni from Australia. Nepal is currently the eighth largest source of international students with around 370 Nepalis having benefitted from the Australia Awards.

## Pakistan

The AusAID Scholarships Alumni-Pakistan (ASA-Pakistan) was launched by the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, HE Timothy George, at an official event in Islamabad on 1 April 2011. The alumni networks play a vital role in building a body of professionals who can develop mutually beneficial relationships between members and organisations. Over 400 awards have been made to Pakistan recipients since 1991. The program is closely aligned with development priorities, including maternal, neonatal and child health, primary education, rural development, food security and agriculture.



*Australian High Commissioner, HE Timothy George, and Counsellor AusAID, Rebecca Shaw, in conversation with two alumni at the ASA-P launch ceremony, 1 April 2011.*

‘Many past AusAID scholarship recipients have become leaders in government, the private sector and non-government organisations in Pakistan ... support for this program is part of Australia’s commitment to broaden and deepen relationships with Pakistan, including trade and investment, diplomacy and development assistance.’

*Comments from Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, HE Timothy George at the launch of ASA-Pakistan, April 2011.*

On 27 May 2011, Ambassador George, and Australia’s Senior Trade Commissioner to South Asia, Peter Linford, hosted a reception supported by Australian Education International in Islamabad for alumni of Australian educational institutions.

## The Philippines

On 10th May 2011 the Minister-Counsellor, AusAID Manila, Titon Mitra, held a **promotional Australia Awards radio simulcast**, underscoring the multicultural character of Australia and the quality of education offered.

The **Philippines Australia Alumni Association (PA3i)** actively engages with Australia Awards recipients including at a PA3i National Convention: ‘Strengthening Partnerships thru Alumni Connections’, held in Davao City, 8–10 July 2011. The meeting ratified new strategic directions, and the organisational structure, including roles and responsibilities of the Board, National and Executive Committees and the Chapters, and elected new office bearers. On 3–4 August, officers of the PA3i, along with representatives from over 23 Australian universities, gathered in Cebu to provide course counselling for prospective awardees with information on Australian Universities and the degree programs available.

Alumni gathered in Manila, on 19 November, for the **Fellowship for Australian and New Zealand alumni dinner dance** – a fund raising event for the Philippines Australia Alumni Association. Over 150 alumni attended this event, also attended by the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines, HE Rod Smith, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner for the Philippines and Micronesia, Ross Bray, and the President of the Australia New Zealand Chamber of Commerce, Philippines, John Casey.

An **Australia Awards Pre-Departure Briefing** was hosted by Ambassador Smith, on 23–25 November who told the attendees that:

‘The Australia Awards are the cornerstone of Australia–Philippines relations and provide a lasting contribution to Philippine development through education. We are proud to have hosted over 2,000 Filipino awardees since the 1960’s and over 400 in the past five years.’

## Sri Lanka

At an Australia Awards reception hosted by the Australian High Commissioner in Colombo on 18 December 2011, the Sri Lankan Minister for External Affairs, Professor GL Peiris, noted the contribution made by the Australian Government towards education, health, environment and governance development through the Australia Awards. There have been 155 Sri Lankan long-term awardees since 2000.

## Thailand

The Australian Ambassador to Thailand, HE James Wise, presented Australia Awards to 27 scholars and professionals from Thailand at a function in Bangkok on 12 January 2011. The awardees included 20 who received Endeavour Awards for high achievement in their specific fields, two of whom were awarded the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Award. Ambassador Wise said that:



*Australia Awards function for scholars in Bangkok, 12 January 2011: from left to right: Ms Praon Udomprasert (ALAS), Dr Anchalee Avihingsanon (ALAF), Dr Cha-aim Pachanee (ALAF), Police Major Jessada Burinsuchat (ALAS), and Ms Chonticha Tangworamongkon (ALAS).*

'The Australia Awards facilitate the sharing of knowledge, strengthen mutual understanding between Thai and Australian scholars and build international networks, which continue long after the scholars have returned to Thailand. This serves to reinforce our strong and enduring bilateral relations, that celebrate their 60th anniversary this year.'

The Award holders will undertake study or research at vocational, postgraduate, and postdoctoral level as well as undertake professional development across a large number of fields including science, environment, agriculture, health, and engineering.



## Amini Sa-idi

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 2011

### **Development Award:**

Australian Leadership Award Scholarship,  
Masters of Arts - English,  
La Trobe University, Melbourne

### Improving development opportunities for rural communities in Southern Thailand

Amini Sa-idi applied for an Australia Leadership Award because she saw it as a unique opportunity to increase her teaching skills and better support the development of local communities in southern Thailand.

Since completing her Masters degree at La Trobe University in 2011, Ms Sa-idi has been using her knowledge to improve English education in the three border provinces, while also speaking out against the problems faced by Muslim women in the region. Several projects she is working on focus on supporting women who have been victims of violence.

Through her scholarship, Ms Sa-idi has built a sustainable network with other Australia awardees from the Asia–Pacific region, helping to share and develop leadership experience in the field of education. While at La Trobe University Ms Sa-idi also introduced the history of Thailand’s Deep South to Australians and corrected misunderstandings on some aspects of Thai culture, helping to establish better intercultural understanding between Australian and Thai people.

## Timor-Leste

On 14 September 2011, Timor-Leste launched an innovative Government Graduate Internship Program (Phase 2). This program is supported by Australia and New Zealand through the Public Sector Capacity Development Program, and with oversight by the Civil Service Commission in Dili. Under this initiative, recent graduates of Australian and New Zealand Development Scholarships are fully funded to complete a twelve-month internship with the Government of Timor-Leste. Five internships were funded in 2011, with interns expected to make significant contributions to health, tourism, agriculture, and infrastructure and government administration.

Since 2000, over 250 awards have been given to Timor-Leste citizens, and many former graduates of the ADS and ALA scholarships have contributed significantly to the new nation. Several returned scholars now occupy senior positions within the civil service and government. The current Ministers for Health, Infrastructure and Education are three of several prestigious alumni who have benefitted from the scholarship program.

### Box 2.4: Increasing language proficiency for award recipients in Timor-Leste.

Australian requirements for the International English Language Testing System were reviewed in August 2009, creating new challenges for many shortlisted applicants. In response to this, improved English language preparation was provided for prospective students. In 2011 the Public Sector Capacity Development Program trialled a two-week intensive English language training program to prepare ADS students for their upcoming tertiary studies in Australia and to provide effective strategies for Australian life on and off the campus. The focus of the program is on reading, writing, listening and speaking skills required to complete academic work at participating Australian universities. On completion of this intensive program students demonstrated a better understanding of planning strategies, language structure, use of vocabulary, comprehension of narrative-style lectures, and concise note-taking.

# Luzia Tomas Freitas

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 2011

## **Development Award:**

Australian Development Scholarship, Masters of Science in Medicine (Infection and Immunity)  
University of Sydney, Sydney

## **Improving laboratory diagnostic capacity and public health surveillance for neglected infectious diseases in Timor-Leste**

Luzia Freitas has worked in clinical laboratories since 1998, and holds secondary and tertiary qualifications from Indonesia and the United Kingdom respectively. Luzia decided to further her study into Infection and Immunity, exploring the causes of infectious diseases through improved laboratory diagnostic skills.

‘Through this course I gained both theoretical and practical knowledge in the area of infectious diseases and microbiology which are essential for the improvement of laboratory diagnostic capability in the country.’

Ms Freitas has been able to apply these skills with support from a collaborative twinning program between the University of Sydney and the National Health Laboratory Timor-Leste. She has also supported capacity building of fellow laboratory technicians who work in health facilities at the national level as well as in thirteen provincial districts.



The twinning program has been able to address the study of some previously neglected diseases chosen by the Ministry of Health Timor-Leste such as diarrhoeal disease and helminthiasis. Nearly 100 laboratory technicians trained across the country to undertake routine examinations to identify these diseases. The results assisted with implementing the national baseline survey for a helminthiasis and filariasis study that will be undertaken in 2012. The survey's results could assist the Ministry of Health in planning effective intervention programs.

Ms Freitas is glad that the work delivered through the twinning program not only assists in the capacity building of her fellow Timorese laboratory technicians through accurate diagnosis of disease causes, but also actively contributes to public health surveillance - essential for monitoring diseases trends to eliminate and reduce the spread of diseases.





*Mr Hermenegildo Goncalves da Cruz and family celebrating his graduation with a Bachelor of Arts, Flinders University, Adelaide, in December 2011.*

# Hermenegildo Goncalves da Cruz

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 2011

## **Development Award:**

Australian Development Scholarship,  
Bachelor of Arts in International  
Relations and Criminal Justice,  
Flinders University, Adelaide

'I enjoyed this course because it has offered me knowledge and experience in both international relations and criminology. I'm confident that I can utilize this knowledge and experience to assist the Timorese Police Force to improve institutions in my country.'

## Strengthening the police force in Timor-Leste

Mr da Cruz is a Senior Police Officer in Timor-Leste and was offered an ADS in 2008. Before beginning his degree he studied preparatory academic English, also at Flinders. During the three years of his undergraduate course he achieved excellent results; as a result the university invited him to continue his studies in a one year honours program, commencing 2012. Mr da Cruz said that he enjoyed studying in Adelaide and was very proud of being one of the AusAID scholarship awardees.

Mr da Cruz believes that his academic achievements in Australia and the knowledge and experience gained from studying these degrees will help him to make a contribution to the development of Timor-Leste.

# Dr Marcal Gusmao

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 2011

**John Allwright Fellowship:**  
PhD Agricultural Economics,  
Plant and Soil Sciences,  
University of Western Australia, Perth



*Dr Marcal Gusmao (second from right) after his graduation with (from left) the University of Western Australia's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, his principal supervisor Professor Erik Veneklaas, and the Dean of the Graduate Research School, Professor Alan Dench.*

## Contributing to food security in Timor-Leste

The first PhD candidate from Timor-Leste to graduate from the University of Western Australia, Dr Marcal Gusmao's doctoral research was on developing a legume crop that is drought and waterlogging-tolerant. Almost half the population of Timor-Leste relies on subsistence agriculture and endures a 2–3 month 'hunger season' every year between one harvest and the next. Dr Gusmao's research involved assessing grass pea which, unlike other legumes, produced a respectable seed yield under stress. He presented his findings at international food legume conferences in Turkey and Syria, thanks to support from ACIAR and a Western Australian postgraduate Research Travel Grant.

On his return to Timor-Leste, he will continue his research work on improving crop development as well as training agricultural science students at the National University of Timor-Leste in methods of improving crop yields and working for a UN development program on climate change.

Note: The University of Western Australia is involved in a major program to alleviate hunger in Timor-Leste. The Seeds of Life III program - a collaboration between ACIAR, AusAID, University of Western Australia and the Timor-Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries - which aims to increase production of Timor-Leste's staple food crops.

## Socialist Republic of Vietnam



At a ceremony on 11 May 2011 for Australia Award holders, alumni and Hue People's Committee representatives, the Australian Governor-General, HE Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, presented awards to three Endeavour Executive Award recipients.

On 1 December 2011, the Australian Ambassador, HE Allaster Cox, hosted a pre-departure briefing for 157 Vietnamese Australia Awards recipients travelling to Australia to study in 2012. Two-thirds of the students were women and nine were from ethnic minority communities, reflecting the high priority given to equity by the Australian Government. Over 4,000 Vietnamese have received long-term Australian scholarships since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the countries in 1973. Ambassador Cox noted that:

**'Australia is now the largest provider of scholarships to Vietnam, actively contributing to Vietnam's human resource development needs.'**

# Dr Lam Minh Yen

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 2001

## **Development Award:**

Australian Development Scholarship,  
Master of Science in Health Science  
Flinders University, Adelaide



## Reducing mortality rates for hospitals in Vietnam

Before studying in Australia, Dr Lam worked in a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) intensive care unit at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Ho Chi Minh City. Awarded an ADS in 1999, she graduated with an MSc in Health Science from Flinders University in 2001.

Since returning to Vietnam, Dr Lam has effectively applied the valuable experience and knowledge she gained in Australia. With the approval of the hospital board, she initiated intensive training classes at the hospital where she has been able to impart her knowledge and experience to her colleagues. More significantly – and largely as a result of the changes she introduced – the mortality rate in various departments of the hospital has significantly decreased. Dr Lam is now a Vice Director, Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Ho Chi Minh City.

‘By the year 2005, about 50–60% of the techniques that I had learned in Australia were applied in the hospital. The first curative technique applied was the use of breathing machines. In the tetanus resuscitation department where I work, the mortality rate was almost halved during the years from 2001 to 2004, and now it has been down by 4/5.’

## Working with vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in Vietnam

Linh's is an inspiring story, demonstrating a determination by disadvantaged people, especially women, to achieve a better life. Her story also illustrates the appropriateness of the ADS program policy of giving preference to disadvantaged persons.

Linh was born in a remote area of Cao Bang Province in northern Vietnam. Her parents passed away when she was only 10 years old. Despite the difficulties she faced, Linh was determined to continue her studies, to liberate herself from farm work, and especially, to overcome the prejudice against women from rural areas. Through determination and effort, Linh gained an ADS scholarship which she believes was a turning point in her life.

After completing her Masters in Development Practice at the University of Queensland, Linh returned to Vietnam in December 2011. She plans to use her experiences and knowledge to help the people in her homeland, especially rural women who inherently suffer from many disadvantages.

'My plan is to work with vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in remote areas. They can either be women or children. I am very interested in helping women in remote areas as they are more socially and economically disadvantaged compared to men.'



## Ma Dieu Linh

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI,  
2011

**Development Award:**  
Australian Development Scholarship,  
Masters in Development Practice,  
University of Queensland, Brisbane

# ★ Caribbean

## Trinidad



*The Australian High Commissioner, HE Philip Kentwell (left), and AusAID representative Hannah Belby (right), with Australia Awards recipients from Jamaica at a farewell reception in Trinidad, November 2011.*

At an Australia Awards reception held in Trinidad, November 2011, 28 Caribbean students received an official farewell prior to their departure for studies in Australia. The Australian High Commissioner in Port of Spain, HE Philip Kentwell, noted the importance of building on the existing bilateral and multilateral links with the Caribbean community.

‘It is hoped that the increasingly close encounters between Australia and the Caribbean occasioned by initiatives such as the Australia Awards ... will result in an enduring relationship that will benefit future generations.’

Of the 28 scholars funded by AusAID, five have been awarded the prestigious ALAS. These awardees have come from the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Lucia. A further 25 candidates have been awarded an ADS equipping them with new skills to contribute to development in the Caribbean region. Awardees will undertake postgraduate studies at Australian universities in fields that include natural resource and environmental management, fisheries and agriculture, education studies, international relations and customs law, tourism and hospitality, sports management, social development and public health.

Australia’s development partnership with the Caribbean was established with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Caribbean community at CHOGM 2009 in Trinidad and Tobago. Valued at \$60 million over four years, the program benefits ODA-eligible Caribbean Community and Common Market member states, Cuba and the Dominican Republic.



*Photo: courtesy of Angus Braithwaite*

## Working towards improved international customs agreements in Jamaica

In receiving a Development Award and undertaking a Masters in international customs law and administration at the University of Canberra, Dadria Smith said that she was very happy to have the opportunity to further her studies in a very unique field.

# Dadria Smith

Due to commence her award in 2012

### **Development Award:**

Australian Development Scholarship,  
Masters of International Customs Law and  
Administration/International Revenue  
Administration

University of Canberra, Canberra

The award would also allow her to study in a multicultural country that will enable her to learn more about people and their customs while developing friendships and important linkages.

Dadria, who has been working at Jamaica Customs, has a career goal to become a Customs consultant and trainer, providing technical assistance on a broader scale to contribute to the development of her country. She feels her award will help her achieve this goal by opening the way for her to gain the experience, knowledge, skills and expertise needed to work in the customs area.

Dadria is looking forward to applying what she learns in Australia on her return to Jamaica. She hopes to do this by analysing, evaluating and providing recommendations for the improvement of the country's customs and taxation policies and laws in order to have a simple but effective and efficient system. This will generate much needed revenue and facilitate trade, and will have a strong influence on the country's economic growth and development. In particular she intends to propose the introduction of advanced binding rulings on tariff classification which will improve trade facilitation by reducing costs to importers, offering more predictability to trade while improving service delivery by customs.



Australia Awards recipients at Australian National University graduation ceremony in Canberra, 12 December 2011.  
Photo: courtesy of Angus Braithwaite.



# ★ Europe

## Germany



## Sara Hankiewicz

Due to finalise her award in 2012

### **Endeavour Award:**

Endeavour Postgraduate Award (previously known as Endeavour Europe Award)  
Masters of Journalism and Communication  
University of New South Wales, Sydney

### Journalism and communication studies

Prior to her Endeavour Award Sara Hankiewicz worked at the foreign correspondence studio for the ARD (a German news broadcasting agency) in New York.

An Endeavour Award has enabled Sara to undertake a Journalism and Communication Masters at the University of New South Wales. Sara elected to undertake topics with a strong international development focus. She has particularly enjoyed the breadth of studies available which included a media law and ethics component. This course enriched her studies that had until then focused more heavily on practical multimedia and editorial skills.

When Sara arrived in Australia, she sought out volunteering opportunities with NGOs that would allow her to spend her spare time productively.

‘My studies, the life I am having and the happiness I am experiencing here in Australia would not be possible for me without the Endeavour Award. I am very grateful for this opportunity, and I really mean it. I am looking forward to work in a job, where I can use my studies, my international background and the experiences I was able to make in Australia to give back to society.’

# ★ Middle East

## Afghanistan



Photo: courtesy of Angus Braithwaite.

## Dr Attaullah Wahidyar

Commenced his award in 2011

**Development Award:**  
Australian Leadership Award,  
Doctorate in Education  
University of Sydney, Sydney

### Developing education policy in Afghanistan

Attaullah Wahidyar is a medical doctor and an educational specialist from Afghanistan. He was once asked what he would do if he came across a man in Afghanistan who was desperately hungry but was also about to be killed – would he give the man food first and then save him or the other way around? As a doctor, he would choose the first option; but, as an educator, he would be helping to make Afghanistan safe and secure. He chose the latter and is now undertaking a doctorate at Sydney University under an ALA scholarship, provided by AusAID through the Australia Awards for Development.

Afghanistan is trying to build up an academic base. Education, including undergraduate studies at university, is free of charge. 'I can think of only three or four people in Afghanistan – a country with a population just a little higher than Australia – who have a doctorate in education', says Attaullah.

**'We have a huge intellectual gap. Nations are guided by intellectuals and historically this is one of our biggest weaknesses as a nation. We have not been able to provide thinkers and intellectuals to guide our society.'**

Education in Afghanistan has undergone a significant change. Ten years ago, there were fewer than one million children in school and few were girls.

A decade on, with Afghan government and international donor support, there are more than seven million children in school and about four in ten are girls. Australia has financed the construction of 30 schools with another 36 underway in Uruzgan Province, one of the country's poorest areas.

Attaullah himself has contributed to the turnaround. In 2008 he was Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Program Adviser to the Afghan Minister for Education and continues to provide advice to the Ministry.

'There are many challenges. When we say the children are in school, about half are not physically in school buildings. 'School' may be a mosque, a private house, under a tree even'.

'Also, we do not have anywhere near enough trained teachers. Only one-third has the minimum qualifications. At present anyone who has graduated from Year 12 can be hired as a teacher and in some more remote areas people with just six or seven years of education are taken on. For now our solution to improving teaching standards is to send master trainers from Kabul into the provinces to work with teachers for up to 25 days. Also, accelerated learning programs are being implemented to upgrade qualifications of existing teachers. Over time, the least experienced teachers in Afghanistan will be replaced by those with more training.'

Despite basic education now being compulsory for all children to Year 9 level, getting girls into school remains a challenge. This is the focus of Dr Wahidyar's doctoral thesis. As a father to six girls,

he knows the social constraints that have to be overcome in his country.

'In Afghan culture, the most valuable asset we have is our girls. If our money or property is taken, we may not think too much about it. But if something happens to our girls, we might react to it to the point of fighting and it will go on for generations. Parents don't want to risk this so if they are not sure about the environment they are putting their girls in, they will keep them at home. This is often misinterpreted by people in other countries. They see it as a bias against girls. It's not that. It's a way of minimising potential conflict. One way around this is to have more female teachers. Parents feel much more confident about sending their daughters to school if there are female teachers but unfortunately there are very few of these in Afghanistan at the moment. My Australian Leadership Award Scholarship will give me a broader view of how other countries approach education. At home, I think we have been too focussed on what the Government and donors believe is best and we haven't paid enough attention to communities themselves. Through my studies I want to create a better understanding of the relationship between government policies on girls' education and how communities themselves view the issue. Girls in Afghanistan must be educated and we need better policies backed with adequate financial resources to make that happen.'

## Papua New Guinea

The PNG Australia Alumni Association (PNGAAA) is committed to addressing critical development issues in collaboration with development partners and other dedicated organisations. Members of the PNGAAA have taken a leadership role in supporting the Safe Motherhood Project to reduce maternal mortality in PNG. In January 2011 – with support from the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Rotary Australia and other local business houses – supplies of blood pressure machines and foetal stethoscopes were delivered to selected health centres and aid posts in East Sepik and New Ireland provinces.

PNG has the second highest rate in the world of women dying from pregnancy and childbirth-related complications. Rural women are particularly vulnerable, often giving birth in unattended conditions.

The Chair of the PNGAAA Safe Motherhood Project, Ms Mensa Wagun reported that, 'the pilot distribution showed that the blood pressure machines and stethoscopes are in high demand and more are required to equip every health centre and aid post in PNG.'



*PNGAAA Representative and Chair of PNGAAA Safe Motherhood Project, Ms Mensa Wagun, presents equipment to Kwahuie Village Aid Post medical orderly and midwife in East Yangou LLG, Yangoru Sausia Electorate, East Sepik Province.*



## Dr Arthur Elijah

Due to commence his Award in 2012

### **Development Award:**

Australian Leadership Award Scholarship,  
Masters in Public Health,  
2012 Allison Sudradjat Awardee  
Monash University, Melbourne

### Contributing to health development priorities in Papua New Guinea

‘Acquiring skills and knowledge in Public Health will help me in my role as a supervisor and trainer for reproductive health workers of this country which will have obvious direct and indirect beneficial impact on the health development priorities of Papua New Guinea.’

At the obstetrics and gynaecology division of the Port Moresby General Hospital, where he works as a lecturer in reproductive health, obstetrics and gynaecology, and as a junior consultant, Dr Elijah is familiar with the challenges posed in situations where

patient turnover rates are high, health workers are few and required basic resources are limited or not available most of the time.

Being awarded an ALA Scholarship and Allison Sudradjat Award to study a Masters degree in Public Health at Monash University, Dr Elijah expects to gain more skills and knowledge in the medical research and public health domains. He also believes he will gain a better perspective of what is available internationally in the field of reproductive health. His studies enable him to return to Papua New Guinea better positioned to educate and support upcoming medical professionals while providing specialist diagnosis and treatment to mothers at the Port Moresby General Hospital.

# Jenny Jerry

AUSTRALIA AWARDS  
ALUMNI, 2011

**Development Award:**  
Australian Development Scholarship,  
Bachelor of Education Early Childhood,  
Queensland University of Technology,  
Brisbane



*Jenny Jerry celebrating her graduation from the Queensland University of Technology with a Bachelor of Education degree with her husband Michael and four daughters (left to right) Esther, Tamicah, Joyce and Lesley.*

## A career to develop early childhood education in Papua New Guinea

Jenny Jerry, from Papua New Guinea, was offered an ADS to study for an undergraduate degree in early childhood education at the Queensland University of Technology in 2008. Jenny believes that education is the key to success and is keen to draw on her skills to teach as many children in Papua New Guinea as possible.

*'I love children and it's through teaching that I can make a difference to their lives and do something meaningful for my country.'* (Source: City South News, 15 December 2011)

Her degree now completed, Jenny is returning to Papua New Guinea to take up a five-year teaching position at the International School in Mt Hagen.

One of the major challenges Jenny faced in completing her degree was the initial separation from family and friends. In July 2009, her husband and family moved from Papua New Guinea to Brisbane where their four children attended Yeronga State School.

# James Tanis

Due to commence his Award in 2012

**Development Award:**  
Australian Development Scholarship  
Masters in International Affairs,  
Australian National University, Canberra

## Human rights champion for Papua New Guinea

James Tanis of Labalan village in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is a fine example of a survivor and a leader. He was a member of the peace initiators team representing Bougainville Civil Society, and is a human rights champion, who held many leading roles prior to being the President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville from 2009 to 2010.

James is a recipient of the Inaugural Australian High Commissioner's Education Award funded by AusAID to study a Masters in international affairs in 2012 at the Australian National University.

'I am very humbled and privileged to have been selected for this prestigious award. I know that education is the key to development and I will use what I learn to contribute to Bougainville and PNG's development.'



# Manoka Igo

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 2011

## **Development Award:**

Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship,  
Certificate for Disability Inclusive  
Development,  
Nossal Institute for Global Health,  
University of Melbourne

## Disability development advocacy in Papua New Guinea

‘The most interesting part of studying in Australia was the easy accessibility to all facilities from my place of study to just getting around a big city like Melbourne, something that is not easy here in Papua New Guinea.’

Confined to a wheelchair as a result of contracting polio, Manoka Igo is a humble but outspoken individual, who works at the Cheshire Disability Services in Port Moresby.

Manoka recently studied in Australia under an ALAF at the Nossal Institute for Global Health, an operating arm of the University of Melbourne. Her program covered topics on disability in developing countries, reviews of case studies, leadership training and advocacy, and disability development in Papua New Guinea.

Manoka believes that, ‘Although it was only a month-long course it was very worthwhile’ and that as the proud recipient of a certificate from CBM-Nossal

Partnership for Disability Inclusive Development ‘I have achieved a strong sense of leadership, planning and an increased level of understanding towards people with disabilities.’

Manoka’s objectives are now to ‘create more awareness for people with disabilities and to demonstrate and apply the skills I learnt from abroad to the PNG context’. She is already a strong advocate for women with disabilities as the initiator of the Gaire Handicapped People’s Association and as a member of the PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons. As for the future, Manoka definitely wants to return to Australia for further training.

Asked if she had any advice for potential ALAF applicants, Manoka said: ‘Despite your disability, gender, age or background, take up any opportunities and challenges with both hands and embrace them.’

# Dr Amber Beavis

AUSTRALIA AWARDS ALUMNI, 2011

## **Endeavour Award:**

Endeavour Research Fellowship - Outgoing,  
American Samoa Community College, Samoa

## Strengthening research practice in remote Pacific islands

A lover of spiders and all things crawly, Dr Amber Beavis set out for the remote Pacific islands in April 2011 to study the dispersal of ground-dwelling spiders as part of her six-month Endeavour Research Fellowship. Based in Pago Pago, American Samoa, Amber participated in the Tokelau Project, a scheme aimed at training local students in research methods and practices to develop the capacity for Polynesian research, an undertaking which included trips to the remote island of Nukunonu (Tokelau) and neighbouring Samoa.

Throughout her fellowship, Amber coordinated a number of community outreach activities, including the Great Nukunonu Spider Hunt with local children, elders, teachers and parents.

**'My six months as an Endeavour Research Fellow have been the most professionally productive and happiest in my adult life - a pattern that I am making sure I continue!'**

## Solomon Islands

The Acting Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, Dave Peebles, in Honiara in December 2011, in congratulating the 48 Solomon Islanders to study at Australian or regional universities, noted that:

‘the scholarships are an important part of Australia’s partnership with the Solomon Islands Government to reduce poverty ... [and that] they are a great opportunity for Solomon Islanders to get a quality education, both at undergraduate or postgraduate level, to build skills, leadership, knowledge and expertise.’

The scholars will be able to drive change and contribute to development in Solomon Islands, with many former Australia Awards scholars now holding senior positions in the public and private sectors.



# Kristina Fidali

Due to commence her Award in 2012

## **Development Award:**

Australian Leadership Award Scholarship,  
Masters of Climate Change  
Australian National University, Canberra

## Tackling the impacts of climate change in the Pacific

The small nation of the Solomon Islands is vulnerable to impacts of climate change and Kristina Fidali would like to make a positive contribution to meeting the challenges this poses for her home country. Kristina, one of four Solomon Islanders awarded an Australian Leadership Award Scholarship, is undertaking a two-year Masters of Climate Change degree at the Australian National University. Before accepting this award, Kristina was the Youth Environment Program Coordinator at the United Nations Development Program in Honiara.

‘My study is half course work, half research so there is a good mix of theory and practical. I chose the Australian National University course based on its reputation and the emphasis of both policy and governance within climate change, which is my real interest. I hope I can use my study and research to inform discussions back home in Solomon Islands and be able to offer practical solutions and leadership to tackle the impacts of climate change.’

‘You make many sacrifices to pursue your study like being away from home without family and friends around, so you have to work hard and do well to make these choices worth it. The scholarship is giving me an opportunity of a lifetime but it’s not just about me and my family, it’s about what I can do when I return to Solomon Islands to help my country.’

# ★ Facts and Figures

During 2011, 4413 Australia Awards (3727 Development, 686 Endeavour) were offered across more than 160 eligible countries.<sup>11</sup> The number of these scholarships awarded annually almost doubled between 2007 and 2011 (increasing from 2228), mainly as a result of an increase in the number of Development Awards offered. (See Table 3.1 for details.) Since 2007, 517 Australian students have had the opportunity to gain an international education experience.

Long-term Development Awards increased steadily during 2011, with a 24.3 percent increase (from 1638 awards in 2010, to 2036 awards in 2011) reflecting the Australian government's ongoing commitment to international education.

Through Development Awards, AusAID has also increased the number of short-term awards over the past 12 months from 714 awards in 2010 to 1691 awards in 2011. This represents a 136.8 percent increase, with greater focus on flexible and responsive approaches to leadership development in line with country priorities.

DIISRTE has also increased the number of long-term incoming awards available to overseas students over the past 12 months by 74 percent from 185 awards in 2010 to 322 awards in 2011.

**Table 3.1: Increasing numbers of Australia Awards 2007-2011\***

Australia Awards 2007-2011									
Intake Year	Development Awards			Endeavour Awards				Total	
			Total	Incoming		Outgoing			Total
	Long-term	Short-term		Long-term	Short-term	Long-term	Short-term		
2011	2036	1691	<b>3727</b>	322	231	40	93	<b>686</b>	<b>4413</b>
2010	1638	714	<b>2352</b>	185	243	40	133	<b>601</b>	<b>2953</b>
2009	1671	598	<b>2269</b>	161	239	0	93	<b>493</b>	<b>2762</b>
2008	1443	695	<b>2138</b>	170	250	0	63	<b>483</b>	<b>2621</b>
2007	1472	370	<b>1842</b>	162	169	0	55	<b>386</b>	<b>2228</b>
<b>Total number of awards 2007-2011</b>									<b>14977</b>

\*Data as at 29 March 2012. Development Awards statistics include John Allwright Fellowships; two Anne Wexler Awards are additional to these totals for 2011.

<sup>11</sup> All Australia Award data remains subject to change due to variations in offer acceptance that may occur after publication.

## Total awards by region

The total awards by geographic region are set out in Table 3.2 below, with the regional breakdown for Development and Endeavour Awards illustrated in Figures 3.a, 3.b, 3.c and 3.d.

The overall regional breakdown for the Australia Awards incoming scholars is illustrated in Figure 3.d. 63 per cent of awards were offered to recipients either coming from, or studying in, Asia. This was followed by 18 per cent of awards for students from, or studying in, the Pacific region, and 11 per cent for African countries. The Middle East region received a substantial number of awards in 2011, with 134 awards (3 per cent) accepted by incoming students to Australia. Overall, the Asia–Pacific region received over 80 per cent of all awards offered.

Of the 133 Australians offered Endeavour Awards for study or professional training overseas, 57 per cent were for placements to study in Asia; 19 per cent in Europe; 16 per cent in the Americas; and 8 per cent in Pacific and Middle Eastern countries.

Table 3.2: Total awards by region, 2011

Region	Development Awards (AUSAID)	Endeavour Awards (DIISRTE) Incoming Scholars	Endeavour Awards (DIISRTE) Outgoing Scholars	Total
Africa	467	0	0	467
Americas	59	30	21	110
Asia	2307	401	76	2784
Caribbean	35	1	0	36
Europe	0	82	25	107
Middle East	114	20	4	138
Pacific	745	19	7	771
<b>Total</b>	<b>3727</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>4413</b>

Figure 3.a: Total Development Awards by region, 2011  
**Development Awards (AusAID)**

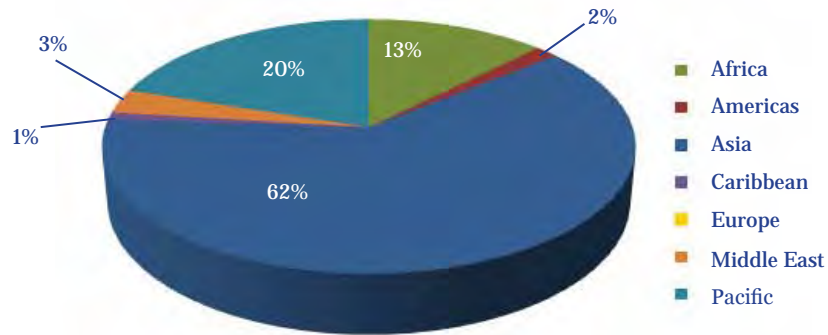


Figure 3.b: Endeavour Awards incoming scholars by region, 2011  
**Endeavour Awards (DIISRTE) Incoming Scholars**

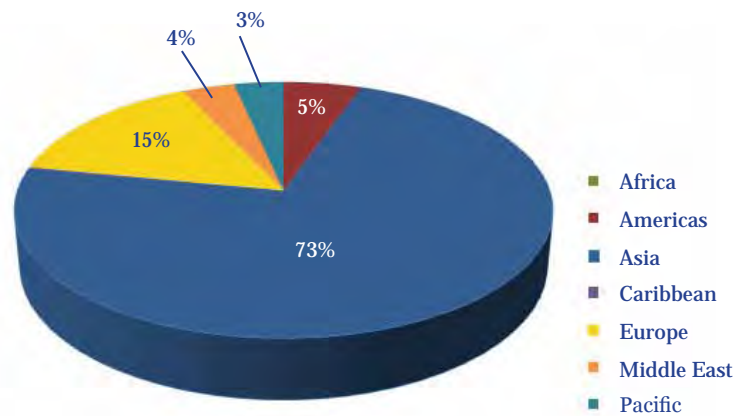


Figure 3.c: Endeavour Awards outgoing scholars by region, 2011  
**Endeavour Awards (DIISRTE) Outgoing Scholars**

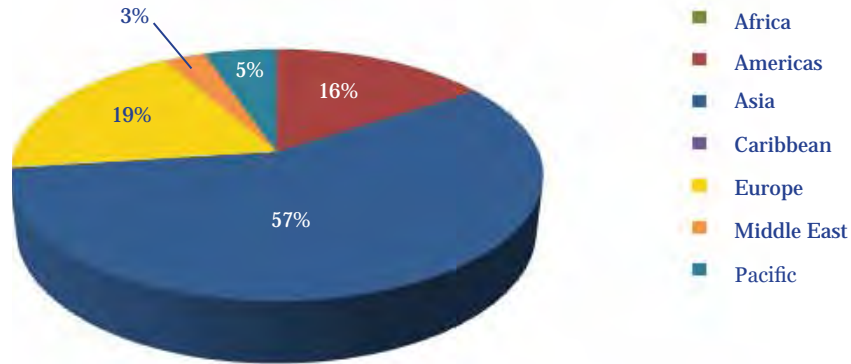
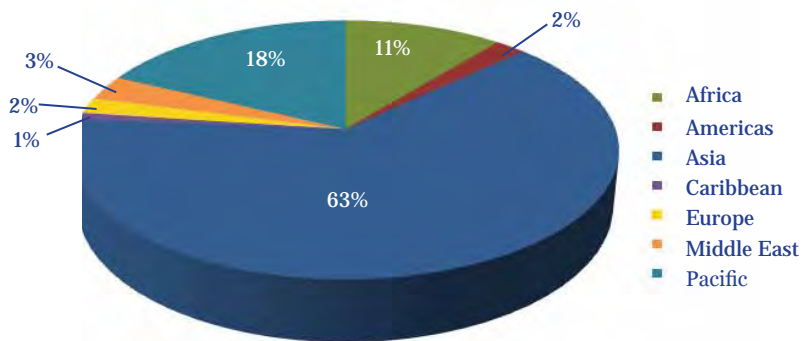


Figure 3.d: Total Australia Awards (Development and Endeavour Awards) incoming scholars by region, 2011  
**Total Australia Awards (Development and Endeavour Awards) Incoming scholars by region, 2011**





## Top 10 source countries

During 2011, source countries for incoming and outgoing Australia Awards recipients were primarily from the Asia region. (See Table 3.3.)

Overall Indonesia (with 628 Development Awards and 19 Endeavour Awards) was the top source country for incoming award recipients, followed by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (with 354 Development Awards and 67 Endeavour Awards) for the Asia region. Papua New Guinea (with 322 Development Awards and 10 Endeavour Awards) was the third largest source country for Development Awards during 2011. Whilst this ranking remained unchanged for Development Awards (see Table 3.4.), the top source country for Endeavour Awards was The Socialist Republic of Vietnam (67), followed by Pakistan (46) and Bhutan (39). (See Table 3.5.)

Of the top ten host countries for outgoing Endeavour Award recipients, the largest overall proportion of students studied in the People's Republic of China (17 per cent), followed closely by the United States (16 per cent), the United Kingdom (10 per cent) and Hong Kong (SAR) (10 per cent). The long-term awards were relatively evenly distributed between Hong Kong, China, Japan and Indonesia. Short-term Endeavour Awards for outgoing students were primarily hosted by the United States (27 per cent), United Kingdom (18 per cent), and China (16 per cent). (See Table 3.6.)

Table 3.3: Top 10 combined source countries for Development and Endeavour Awards in 2011 (incoming scholars)

Country of Citizenship and/or Permanent Residency	Number of Development Awards	Number of Endeavour Awards	Total Number of Awards
Indonesia	628	19	647
Socialist Republic of Vietnam	354	67	421
Papua New Guinea	322	10	332
People's Republic of China	267	24	291
Philippines	170	18	188
Bangladesh	142	31	173
Cambodia	153	7	160
Pakistan	64	46	110
Bhutan	61	39	100
Lao People's Democratic Republic	96	3	99

Table 3.4: Development Awards: Top 10 source countries (incoming scholars)

Country of Citizenship and/or Permanent Residency	Long-term	Short-term	Total Number of Awards
Indonesia	367	261	628
Socialist Republic of Vietnam	225	129	354
Papua New Guinea	184	138	322
People's Republic of China	27	240	267
Philippines	139	31	170
Cambodia	63	90	153
Bangladesh	75	67	142
Lao People's Democratic Republic	60	36	96
Mongolia	34	46	80
Iraq	0	80	80

Table 3.5: Endeavour Awards: Top 10 source countries (incoming scholars)

Country of Citizenship and/or Permanent Residency	Long-term	Short-term	Total Number of Awards
Socialist Republic of Vietnam	44	23	67
Pakistan	27	19	46
Bhutan	39	0	39
India	5	32	37
Bangladesh	28	3	31
Sri Lanka	19	7	26
People's Republic of China	6	18	24
Malaysia	11	12	23
Indonesia	14	5	19
Philippines	17	1	18
Thailand	10	8	18

Table 3.6: Endeavour Awards: Top 10 countries hosting Australia Award recipients (outgoing scholars)

Host Country	Accepted Endeavour Awards		Total Number of Awards
	Long-term	Short-term	
People's Republic of China	7	9	16
United States	0	15	15
Hong Kong (SAR)	8	2	10
United Kingdom	0	10	10
Japan	6	2	8
India	3	4	7
Indonesia	6	1	7
Singapore	4	2	6
Thailand	3	3	6
Canada	0	6	6

## Australia Awards accepted by region - age and gender demographics

Gender equality is central to economic and human development in a country. Removing inequalities gives societies a better chance to develop. When women and men have relative equality, economies grow faster, children's health improves and there is less corruption. Gender equality is an important human right.<sup>12</sup>

The Australian Government is committed to remaining a firm advocate of gender equality – a central feature of economic and social development. Equal opportunity for women and men supports economic growth and helps to reduce poverty. This principle is applied in the selection of applicants for the Development and Endeavour Awards. Overall there were 54 per cent male recipients and 46 per cent female recipients of Australia Awards in 2011.

In 2011, almost half of all award recipients (Development and Endeavour Awards) were aged between 25 and 35 years. The largest group of Development Award recipients was in the 31-35 year-old male cohort from the Asia region (333). This was followed by the 26-30 year-old age female cohort, also from the Asia region (330). Overall there were 55 per cent male recipients (2038) and 45 per cent female recipients (1689) across all regions for Development Awards. (See Tables 3.7 and 3.8; Figures 3.e and 3.f.)

<sup>12</sup> Source: <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/keyaid/gender.cfm>

Table 3.7: Development Awards: age and gender demographics - male recipients, accepted by region, 2011

Region/ Age (Years)	Under 25	25-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	Over 50	TOTAL
Africa	0	33	66	82	64	29	13	287
Americas	1	9	9	3	3	3	2	30
Asia	33	274	333	215	153	122	126	1256
Caribbean	0	4	7	3	1	2	1	18
Europe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Middle East	1	17	18	7	9	9	23	84
Pacific	52	46	86	82	51	27	19	363
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>2038</b>

Figure 3.e: Development Awards: age and gender demographics - male recipients, accepted by region, 2011

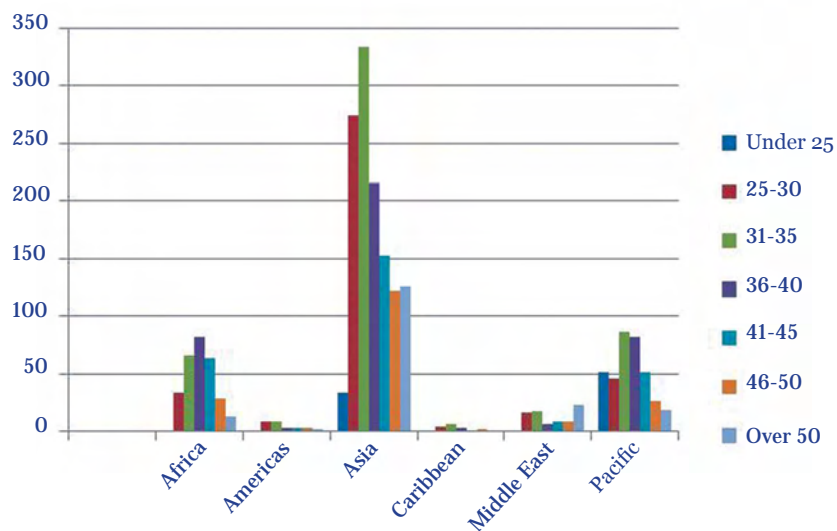
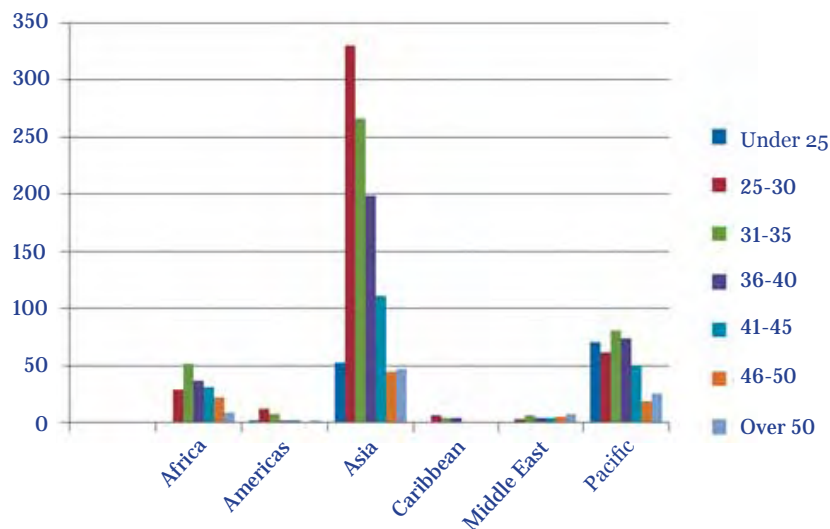


Table 3.8: Development Awards: age and gender demographics - female recipients, accepted by region, 2011

Region/ Age (Years)	Under 25	25-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	Over 50	TOTAL
Africa	1	29	51	37	31	22	9	180
Americas	2	12	8	2	2	1	2	29
Asia	53	330	266	199	111	45	47	1051
Caribbean	0	7	4	4	0	1	1	17
Europe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Middle East	0	3	6	4	4	5	8	30
Pacific	70	62	81	74	50	19	26	382
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1689</b>

Figure 3.f: Development Awards: age and gender demographics - female recipients, accepted by region, 2011



The largest group of incoming Endeavour Awards recipients was in the 25–30 year-old age cohort from the Asia region. This was followed by the 31–35 year-old age cohort, also from the Asia region. The largest group of outgoing awards recipients was in the over 50 years and age cohort, also to the Asia region. (See Tables 3.9 and 3.10.)

**Table 3.9: Endeavour Awards: age demographics for incoming award holders, accepted by region, 2011**

Region/ Age (Years)	Under 25	25-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	Over 50	TOTAL
Africa	3	3	6	3	5	0	0	20
Americas	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Asia	20	119	99	79	36	29	19	401
Caribbean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Europe	2	12	6	4	1	1	4	30
Middle East	7	30	31	10	3	0	1	82
Pacific	0	7	5	1	4	1	1	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>553</b>

**Table 3.10: Endeavour Awards: age demographics for outgoing award holders, accepted by region, 2011**

Region/ Age (Years)	Under 25	25-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	Over 50	TOTAL
Africa	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	4
Americas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asia	14	15	14	8	6	6	13	76
Caribbean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Europe	1	4	5	3	0	3	5	21
Middle East	0	3	3	5	1	4	9	25
Pacific	0	5	0	0	0	1	1	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>133</b>

The largest male (52 per cent) and female (48 per cent) cohorts for incoming Endeavour Awards were for recipients coming from the Asia region. The largest male (44 per cent) and female (56 per cent) cohorts for outgoing Endeavour Awards were for Australian recipients going to Asia. Overall there were 51 per cent male recipients (348) and 49 per cent female recipients (338) across all regions for the Endeavour Awards. (See Tables 3.11 and 3.12.)

**Table 3.11: Endeavour Awards gender demographics for incoming award holders, accepted by region, 2011**

Region	Gender (male)	Gender (Female)	Total
Africa	15	5	20
Americas	0	1	1
Asia	215	186	401
Caribbean	0	0	0
Europe	11	19	30
Middle East	36	46	82
Pacific	12	7	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>553</b>

**Table 3.12: Endeavour Awards gender demographics for outgoing award holders, accepted by region, 2011**

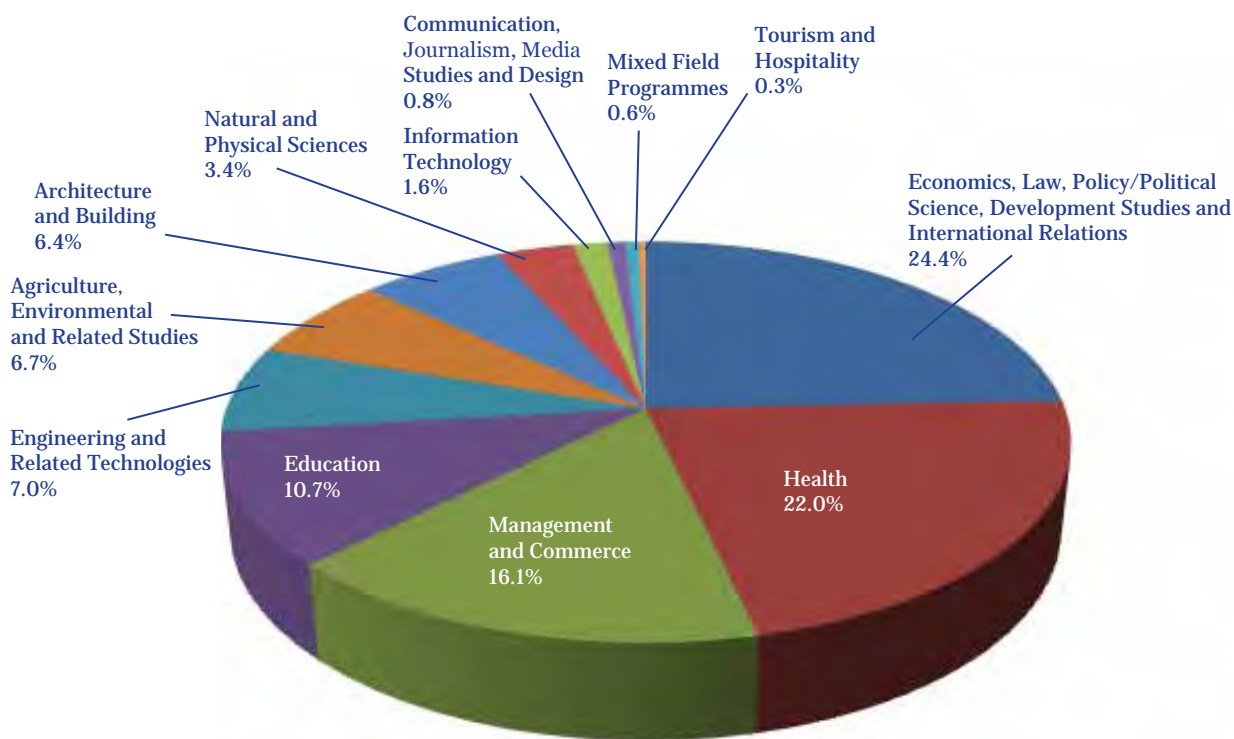
Region	Gender (male)	Gender (Female)	Total
Africa	1	3	4
Americas	0	0	0
Asia	37	39	76
Caribbean	0	0	0
Europe	9	12	21
Middle East	9	16	25
Pacific	3	4	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>133</b>



## Fields of study (Development and Endeavour Awards)

In 2011, the largest numbers of Development Awards (24.4 per cent) were awarded in the field of society and culture (economics, law, political science, development studies and international relations). This was closely followed by health (22 per cent), reflecting the significance of health as a sectoral priority for aid-recipient countries. Management and commerce (16.1 per cent), education (10.7 per cent) and engineering and related technologies (7.0 per cent) were also included in the top five fields of study for Development Awards. (See Figure 3.g.)

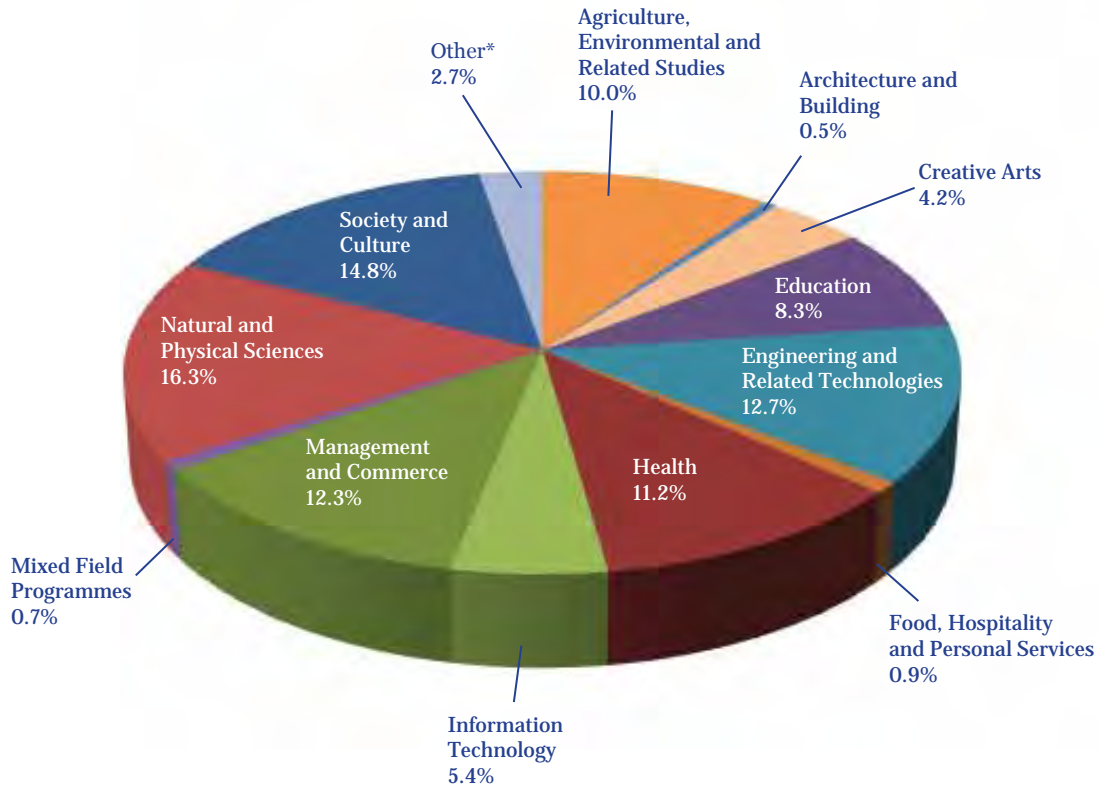
Figure 3.g: Development Awards: Fields of study for incoming award holders, 2011



The largest number of incoming (international) Endeavour Awards were for recipients studying in the field of natural and physical sciences (16.3 per cent), closely followed by society and culture (14.8 per cent). Engineering and related technologies (12.7 per cent), management and commerce (12.3 per cent) and health (11.2 per cent) were also in the top five fields of study. (See Figure 3.h.)

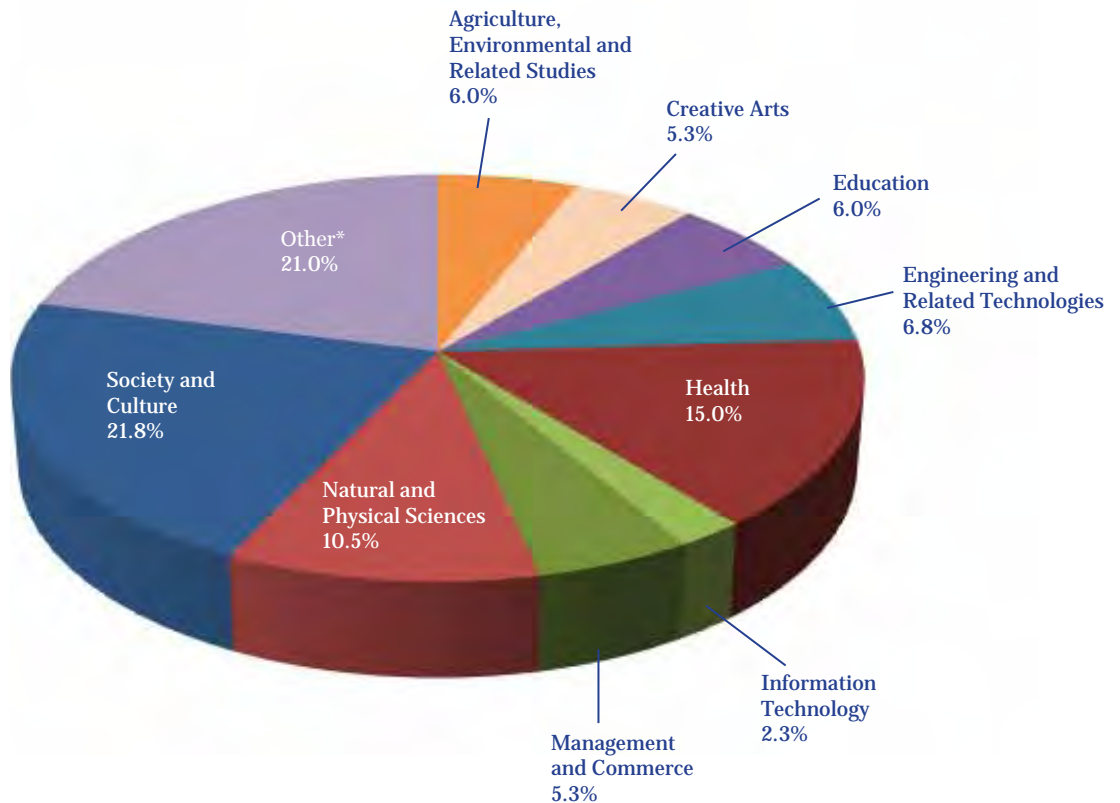
The largest number of outgoing (Australian) Endeavour Awards were for recipients studying in the society and culture field of study (21.8 per cent). (See Figure 3.i.)

**Figure 3.h: Endeavour Awards: fields of study for incoming (International) award holders, 2011**



\*Other (includes professional development programs).

Figure 3.i: Endeavour Awards: fields of study for outgoing (Australian) award holders, 2011



\*Other (includes professional development programs).

## Australian institutions - the top ten institutions hosting the largest number of Australia Awards scholars in 2011

In 2011, there were over 60 Australian tertiary institutions hosting Australia Awards recipients. Tables 3.13 (Development Awards) and 3.14 (Endeavour Awards incoming and outgoing) list the top ten institutions hosting the largest number of Australia Awards recipients for 2011.

Table 3.13: Top 10 Australian institutions hosting incoming (International) Development Award holders

Development Awards	
1.	University of Queensland
2.	University of Sydney
3.	University of Melbourne
4.	Australian National University
5.	Queensland University of Technology
6.	University of New South Wales
7.	Monash University
8.	Flinders University
9.	University of Adelaide
10.	Curtin University

Table 3.14: Top 10 Australian institutions hosting incoming (International) and outgoing (Australian) Endeavour Award holders

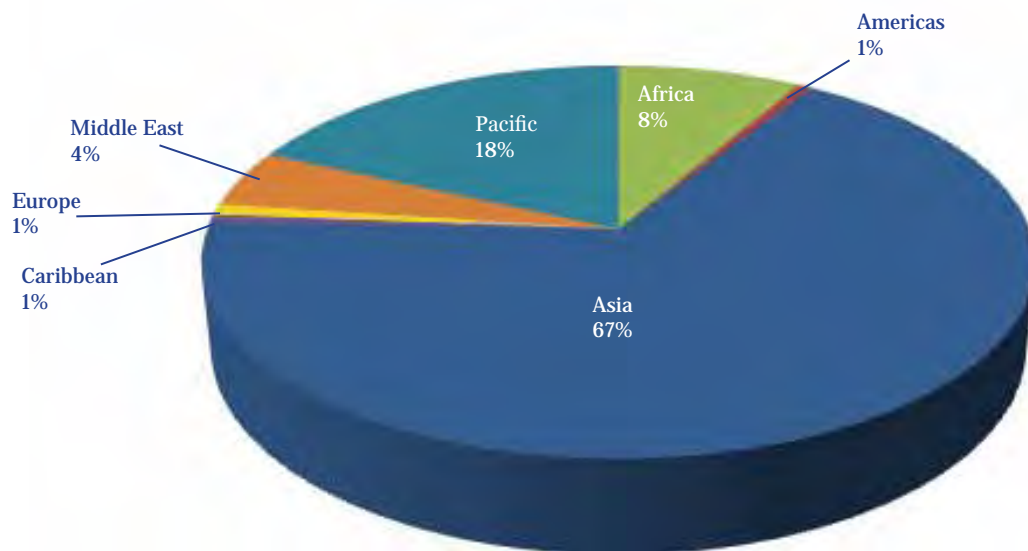
Endeavour Awards (DIIRTE) incoming scholars	Endeavour Awards (DIIRTE) outgoing scholars
1. Australian National University	1. University of Sydney
2. University of Sydney	2. Australian National University
3. University of Melbourne	3. Griffith University
4. University of New South Wales	4. University of Queensland
5. University of Queensland	5. RMIT University
6. University of Western Australia	6. University of Adelaide
7. TAFE New South Wales	7. University of Technology Sydney
8. Monash University	8. University of Melbourne
9. RMIT University	9. Macquarie University
10. Macquarie University	10. Monash University

## Financial expenditure by region (incorporating management costs)

The Australian Government expended a total of \$273.21 million in 2010–11 Financial Year for the Australia Awards (Development and Endeavour Awards) announced in 2011. This represents approximately a 27.7 per cent increase in expenditure for implementing agencies from 2009–10 Financial Year. (Table 3.15.)

Overall regional allocations are highest for the Asia region (67 per cent), followed by the Pacific region with 18 per cent of the overall budget allocation. (See Figure 3.j and Table 3.16.)

Figure 3.j: Australia Awards: overall budget allocation (%) for Development and Endeavour Awards by region in 2011



The largest budget allocations of Development Awards went to award recipients in the Asia region (64 per cent), followed by 20 per cent to recipients in the Pacific region, and 10 per cent to recipients in the Africa region. (See Table 3.16.)

Eighty-three per cent of Endeavour Award funding allocations were for awards in the Asia region (or for awards to Australian citizens studying in Asia). (See Table 3.16.)

Table 3.15: Summary of AusAID and DIISRTE expenditure for FY2009-10, and FY2010-11

Financial Year	AusAID (\$m)	DIISRTE* (\$m)	Total (\$m)
2009 - 2010	183.25	30.7	213.95
2010 - 1011	236.65	36.56	273.21

Table 3.16: Total expenditure by region, FY2010-11\*\*

Region	AusAID (\$)	DIISRTE* (\$)	Total (\$)
Africa	22.98	0.00	22.98
Americas	1.56	0.81	2.37
Asia	151.60	30.42	182.02
Caribbean	0.96	0.00	0.96
Europe	0.00	2.23	2.23
Middle East	11.91	1.09	13.00
Pacific	47.64	2.01	49.65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>236.65</b>	<b>36.56</b>	<b>273.21</b>

\*Formerly DEEWR.

\*\*Secretariat funding over four years 2010-13 of eight million (provided by AusAID and DIISRTE) is additional to this expenditure. Anne Wexler Awards are also additional to this expenditure (up to \$280,000).

# Contact us/feedback

---

The Australia Awards Secretariat can be contacted through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

**Australia Awards Secretariat**  
**Public Diplomacy and Information Branch**  
**Consular, Public Diplomacy, Parliamentary and Media Division**  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
RG Casey Building, John McEwen Crescent,  
Barton ACT 0221

**Telephone:** +61 2 6261 1111

**Website:** [www.australiaawards.gov.au](http://www.australiaawards.gov.au)



*Prime Minister's Pacific Australia Award recipient, Joel Silas, from the remote district of Kerowagi, Simbu Province, Papua New Guinea during a work placement with Hear and Say in March 2011.  
Photo: courtesy of Dreamcoat Media.*



# ★ Annexes

## Annex 1. Australia Awards Scholarship Categories

### Development Awards: AusAID

Long Term Awards			
Award	Study Level	Award Duration	Average Award Value \$AUD*
Australian Development Scholarships (ADS)	Study for an Australian qualification at Australian TAFE college or university for a Diploma (TVET), Undergraduate Bachelor degree, Masters degree or PhD qualification	Up to 4 years	Average range \$102,000 (Masters); \$194,000 (Bachelor); \$241,000 (PhD)
Australian Regional Development Scholarships (ARDS)	Study at a technical/vocational college or university in the Pacific for a post-secondary diploma (TVET), Bachelor degree; post-graduate diploma or Masters qualification	Up to 4 years	\$27,000

Short Term Awards			
Award	Study Level	Award Duration	Average Award Value \$AUD*
Australian Leadership Awards Fellowships (ALAF)	Research or professional development	Up to 1 year	Up to \$35,000 per fellow
AusAID Short Course Awards	Study or training	Up to 5 months	Up to \$35,000 per awardee

\*The award value varies based on level of study; there is no upper limit.

## Supplementary Awards\*\*

Award	Study Level	Award Duration	Average Award Value \$AUD*
Australian Leadership Awards Scholarships (ALAS)	Available for highest ranked ADS awardees studying at Masters or PhD level at an Australian University. Awardees receive an added Leadership for Development program	Up to 4 years	Up to \$22,000
Prime Minister's Pacific Australia Awards (for recipients of ADS and ALAS)	Leadership Development available for ADS scholars from the Pacific Islands, Timor-Leste or PNG who are close to finalising their studies; the Award includes short term work placements and leadership training	1-3 months	Up to \$25,000

\*The award value varies based on level of study; there is no upper limit.

\*\*Additional Supplementary Awards include Allison Sudradjat Awards and Greg Urwin Awards.

## Endeavour Awards: DIISRTE Incoming (International)

Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Awards			
Award	Study Level	Award Duration	Average Award Value \$AUD*
Endeavour Postgraduate Awards	Postgraduate study/research for an Australian Masters degree or PhD	Up to 2 years for a Masters Up to 4 years for a PhD	Up to \$118,500 (Masters) and \$228,500 (PhD)
Prime Minister's Australia Asia Incoming Postgraduate Award	Postgraduate research for an Australian PhD	Up to 4 years and up to 1 year optional internship	Up to \$263,500
Endeavour Research Fellowships (including Endeavour Australian Cheung Kong Research Fellowships)	Research towards a Masters degree or PhD in home country; or postdoctoral research	4-6 months	Up to \$23,500

### Vocational Education and Training Awards

Endeavour Vocational Education and Training (VET) Awards	Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree	1-2.5 years	Up to \$119,500
--	---	-------------	-----------------

### Executive Awards

Endeavour Executive Awards	Professional Development	1-4 months	Up to \$18,500
----------------------------	--------------------------	------------	----------------

\*The award value varies based on level of study; there is no upper limit.

## Endeavour Awards: DIISRTE Outgoing (Australian)

Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Awards			
Award	Study Level	Award Duration	Average Award Value \$AUD*
Endeavour Research Fellowships (including Endeavour Australian Cheung Kong Research Fellowships)	Research towards a Masters degree or a PhD in home country; or postdoctoral research	4-6 months	Up to \$23,500
Prime Minister's Australia Asia Outgoing Postgraduate Award	Postgraduate study/research for a Masters degree or PhD	Up to 2 years	Up to \$63,500
Endeavour Research Fellowships for Indigenous Australians	Research towards a Masters degree or PhD in home country; or postdoctoral research	4-6 months	Up to \$23,500
Executive Awards			
Endeavour Executive Awards	Professional Development	1-4 months	Up to \$18,500
Undergraduate Awards			
Prime Minister's Australia Asia Outgoing Undergraduate Award	Bachelor Degree or Honours	Up to 2 years	Up to \$53,500

\*The award value varies across each year of the program.

## John Allwright Fellowship Awards and John Dillon Fellowship Awards: ACIAR

Long Term Awards			
Award	Study Level	Award Duration	Average Award Value \$AUD*
John Allwright Fellowship Awards	Postgraduate study/research for a Masters degree or PhD	From 2 to 4 years	Up to \$300,000

Short-term Awards			
Award	Study Level	Award Duration	Average Award Value \$AUD*
John Dillon Fellowship Awards	Leadership Fellowship	Up to 6 weeks	Up to \$20,000

## Anne Wexler Scholarships: Australian-American Fulbright Commission

Long-term Awards			
Award	Study Level	Award Duration	Average Award Value \$AUD*
Anne Wexler Scholarships	Masters Degree	Up to 2 years	Up to \$140,000

\*The award value for each award varies across each year of the program.

## Annex 2. Australia Awards Statistics 2011

Australia Awards 2011*									
*Updated 29 March 2012									
Country [eligible for Australia Awards]	Development Awards			Endeavour Awards					Combined Total
			Total Develop- ment	Incoming		Outgoing		Total Endeav- our	
	Long- term	Short- term		Long- term	Short- term	Long- term	Short- term		
Bangladesh	75	67	142	28	3	0	2	33	175
Bhutan	53	8	61	39	0	0	0	39	100
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambodia	63	90	153	4	3	0	1	8	161
China (People's Republic of)	27	240	267	6	18	7	9	40	307
Hong Kong (SAR)	0	0	0	0	2	8	2	12	12
India	10	21	31	5	32	3	4	44	75
Indonesia	367	261	628	14	5	6	1	26	654
Japan	0	0	0	0	2	6	2	10	10
Laos (PDR)	60	36	96	2	1	0	0	3	99
Malaysia	0	0	0	11	12	1	2	26	26
Maldives	31	10	41	0	0	0	0	0	41
Mongolia	34	46	80	8	0	0	0	8	88
Myanmar (Burma)	10	5	15	0	0	0	0	0	15
Nepal	31	17	48	9	3	0	0	12	60
Pakistan	51	13	64	27	19	0	0	46	110
Philippines	139	31	170	17	1	0	3	21	191
Republic of Korea (South Korea)	0	0	0	5	6	1	0	12	12
Singapore	0	0	0	4	0	4	2	10	10
Sri Lanka	22	37	59	19	7	0	0	26	85

## Australia Awards 2011\*

Country [eligible for Australia Awards]	Development Awards			Endeavour Awards					Combined Total
			Total Develop- ment	Incoming		Outgoing		Total Endeav- our	
	Long- term	Short- term		Long- term	Short- term	Long- term	Short- term		
Taiwan	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	5	5
Thailand	3	19	22	10	8	3	3	24	46
Timor-Leste	31	45	76	0	0	0	2	2	78
SR of Vietnam	225	129	354	44	23	0	3	70	424
<b>Asia Region Total</b>	<b>1232</b>	<b>1075</b>	<b>2307</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>2784</b>
Cook Islands	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Fiji	57	11	68	0	1	0	1	2	70
French Polynesia	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Kiribati	29	7	36	0	0	0	0	0	36
Marshall Islands	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Micronesia (Federated States of)	14	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	15
Nauru	11	5	16	0	0	0	0	0	16
New Caledonia	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	4
New Zealand	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
Niue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Palau	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Papua New Guinea	184	138	322	9	1	0	1	11	333
Samoa	35	18	53	0	0	0	1	1	54
Solomon Islands	50	27	77	8	0	0	0	8	85
Tokelau	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tonga	31	15	46	0	0	0	0	0	46
Tuvalu	15	3	18	0	0	0	0	0	18
Vanuatu	56	18	74	0	0	0	0	0	74
Wallis and Futuna	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Pacific Region Total</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>771</b>

## Australia Awards 2011\*

Country [eligible for Australia Awards]	Development Awards			Endeavour Awards					Combined Total
			Total Develop- ment	Incoming		Outgoing		Total Endeav- our	
	Long- term	Short- term		Long- term	Short- term	Long- term	Short- term		
Algeria	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Angola	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Benin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botswana	10	14	24	0	0	0	0	0	24
Burkina Faso	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Burundi	2	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Cameroon	1	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Cape Verde	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Comoros	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Congo (Republic)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Djibouti	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethiopia	12	7	19	0	0	0	0	0	19
Gabon	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Gambia	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7
Ghana	12	11	23	0	0	0	0	0	23
Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ivory Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenya	21	19	40	0	0	0	0	0	40
Lesotho	5	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
Liberia	8	9	17	0	0	0	0	0	17
Malawi	14	7	21	0	0	0	0	0	21
Mali	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
Mauritius	9	6	15	0	0	0	0	0	15
Morocco	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Mozambique	19	8	27	0	0	0	0	0	27



## Australia Awards 2011\*

Country [eligible for Australia Awards]	Development Awards			Endeavour Awards					Combined Total
			Total Develop- ment	Incoming		Outgoing		Total Endeav- our	
	Long- term	Short- term		Long- term	Short- term	Long- term	Short- term		
Namibia	4	8	12	0	0	0	0	0	12
Niger	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Nigeria	8	21	29	0	0	0	0	0	29
Rwanda	10	12	22	0	0	0	0	0	22
Sao Tome and Principe	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Senegal	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Seychelles	7	4	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
Sierra Leone	8	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
South Africa	11	9	20	0	0	0	0	0	20
Swaziland	7	4	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
Tanzania (United Republic of)	22	10	32	0	0	0	0	0	32
Togo	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Tunisia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uganda	22	6	28	0	0	0	0	0	28
Zambia	16	12	28	0	0	0	0	0	28
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Africa Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>467</b>
Afghanistan	30	1	31	2	0	0	0	2	33
Bahrain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iran	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	8	8
Iraq	0	80	80	2	2	0	0	4	84
Jordan	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Lebanon	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Libya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Australia Awards 2011\*

Country [eligible for Australia Awards]	Development Awards			Endeavour Awards					Combined Total
			Total Develop- ment	Incoming		Outgoing		Total Endeav- our	
	Long- term	Short- term		Long- term	Short- term	Long- term	Short- term		
Oman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Palestinian Territories	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Qatar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syria	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	2
Turkey	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	4	4
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yemen	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Middle East Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>138</b>
Austria	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	4	4
Belgium	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	4
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Croatia	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Denmark	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
France	0	0	0	0	6	0	3	9	9
Germany	0	0	0	8	4	0	2	14	14
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	0	0	0	1	4	0	2	7	7
Italy	0	0	0	3	10	0	1	14	14
Lithuania	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Luxemburg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Australia Awards 2011\*

Country [eligible for Australia Awards]	Development Awards			Endeavour Awards					Combined Total
			Total Develop- ment	Incoming		Outgoing		Total Endeav- our	
	Long- term	Short- term		Long- term	Short- term	Long- term	Short- term		
Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	4	4
Poland	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Romania	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Russian Federation	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	3
Slovakia	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	3
Slovenia	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Spain	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	4	4
Sweden	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	3
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
United Kingdom	0	0	0	6	9	0	10	25	25
<b>Europe Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>107</b>
Argentina	3	10	13	0	0	0	0	0	13
Bolivia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brazil	1	3	4	2	3	0	0	5	9
Canada	0	0	0	1	3	0	6	10	10
Chile	4	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
Colombia	3	5	8	1	0	0	0	1	9
Costa Rica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ecuador	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
El Salvador	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Guatemala	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Honduras	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mexico	8	4	12	4	2	0	0	6	18
Nicaragua	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

## Australia Awards 2011\*

Country [eligible for Australia Awards]	Development Awards			Endeavour Awards					Combined Total
	Long-term	Short-term	Total Develop- ment	Incoming		Outgoing		Total Endeav- our	
				Long-term	Short-term	Long-term	Short-term		
Panama	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paraguay	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Peru	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Suriname	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
United States	0	0	0	3	7	0	15	25	25
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	2
Venezuela	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
<b>Americas Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>110</b>
Antigua and Barbuda	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bahamas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barbados	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Belize	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Dominica	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Dominican Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grenada	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Guyana	7	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	8
Haiti	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jamaica	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
St Kitts and Nevis	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
St Lucia	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
St Vincent and the Grenadines	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Trinidad and Tobago	5	2	7	0	1	0	0	1	8
<b>Caribbean Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2036</b>	<b>1691</b>	<b>3727</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>4413</b>
Anne Wexler Scholarships				1		1		2	<b>4415</b>



# Australia Awards 2011

---

At a Glance



# Awards 2011



Number of Awards:

★ 0-49

★★ 50-99

★★★ 100 >

Outgoing scholars to and from global destinations.  
Citizenship only.

