



# Pre-interview Information Sheet No 5: The Development Agenda

## Understanding context

Australia Awards are administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). They aim to contribute to the long-term development needs of Australia's partner countries in line with bilateral and regional agreements.

As an applicant for an Australia Award Scholarship, it is important that you have a clear understanding of how you, your role and your professional background fit into the big picture – that is, within both the Australian Government's and your own Government's national interests and agreed development agenda.

At your interview, you will need to be able to sell yourself and your application in terms of potential future contribution to the development agenda.

## The Australian perspective

Australia's approach to development is closely aligned to its economic diplomacy policy.

"If the goal of traditional diplomacy is peace, then the goal of economic diplomacy is prosperity"

Julie Bishop  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Information on Australia's new development policy is available at this web-link:

- ▶ [Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability](#)
- ▶ [Australia's new development policy and performance framework: a summary](#)

## Know your country's plans

Before your interview, take time to research your own Government's vision for development, strategic policies and plans; and understand how your own sector of work and the organisation in which you work, fit into these plans.

In recent years, most African countries have developed their "Vision" for development over the long and medium term. Such Plans articulate how the country will pull together to achieve its common development goals.

"Development Vision 2025 has identified the kind of enabling environment that is essential for the nation to flourish economically, socially, culturally and politically."

Planning Commission, Tanzania

## Questions to ask yourself

- ▶ What are the key elements of my government's development agenda?
- ▶ What are the priority sectors and how does my organisation fit into the sector?
- ▶ What are the key issues to be addressed for sustainable development?
- ▶ How does my work link to the sector priorities and targets through my organisation's mandate and strategic plans?
- ▶ How will an Australia Award help me in my work, to contribute to these overarching objectives in the future?
- ▶ What are the social inclusion factors to be considered – such as women's empowerment or access and equity targets for people with disabilities?

## Selling your ideas

In your application, you have told us what you would like to study and why. Now the Interview Panel will want to understand more about how you, through your Reintegration Action Plan, will contribute to development.

"The National Development Plan is a plan for the country to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030..."

National Planning Commission,  
South Africa

## Be prepared

For your interview, be ready to discuss your ideas – have your own vision for the future.

"Vision 2020 [is] Ghana's blue print for sustainable socio-economic development."

National Development Planning  
Commission, Ghana

Visit the DFAT website to learn about Australia's development and economic diplomacy policies:  
<http://www.dfat.gov.au>

Visit the Australia Awards Africa website for more country-level context:  
<http://www.australiaawardsafrica.org/about-australia/australia-in-africa/>

