

## **Political Governance Review – Summary**

In response to a request from the Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, the Hon Bob McMullan, AusAID has commissioned an independent Review of Australian aid program support for organisations active in strengthening political governance in developing countries.

The members of the Review Team are the Hon Neil Andrew AO (former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Liberal Party), the Hon Michael Beahan (former President of the Senate, Australian Labor Party), Ms Vicki Bourne (former Senator, Australian Democrats) and Mr Peter Callan (Assistant Director General, AusAID).

The primary aim of the Review is to identify some guiding principles to help AusAID develop a strategic framework to guide future AusAID engagement and funding.

The Review will focus primarily on the question of how to make parliament work effectively. This includes a specific focus on parliament, parliamentarians, political parties, and electoral support work.

The specific objectives of the Review are to:

- a. undertake an assessment of the role, mandate and work program of Centre of Democratic Institutions;
- b. review a selection of other political governance organisations to suggest guiding principles for a strategic approach to political governance engagement within the Australian international development assistance program; and
- c. review current work and approaches being undertaken on political governance by other donors or organisations to inform these principles.

The Review Team commenced its work with a round of consultations in Canberra in November and December 2008. It will hold further consultations in Papua New Guinea and East Timor in early 2009. The Review is to be completed by March 2009, with the Team preparing an internal report for AusAID.