



# RESULTS

## Pressures and Opportunities for Development Agencies:

How things look and feel inside AusAID

Alwyn Chilver

DCED Seminar on Trends and Results in PSD  
Session 1, Friday 20 January 2012





## Changes at AusAID

- > Commitment to scale up spend to 0.5% GNI
- > An Aid Effectiveness Review leading to unprecedented:
  - clarity of focus on what we will/won't do
  - commitment to engage with Australian business community
  - commitment to develop a PSD strategy
  - And budget clarity to 2015
  - Rethink of the workforce needs
- > Demanding Minister, after results, not activities or spend



## Changes at AusAID (RESULTS)

- > 2010 Annual Report contains 200 'Results'
- > The first ever agency-wide discussion on results:
  - What is Australia buying for a 4 year \$\$ commitment
  - Tier 1 – progress against development goals in partner countries
  - Tier 2 – the contribution of Australian aid to those goals
  - Tier 3 – operational and organisational effectiveness
  - Headline development results in 4 years (from Tier 2 & 3)
  - Annual reporting on progress towards these
- > Emphasis on numbers





## Results – the experience 2

- > Surprising conservatism in projecting results
- > Attribution, contribution approaches vary!
- > Call for ‘results’ expertise
- > Concerns about staff incentives:
  - Cash transfers delivered vs FTE jobs created
  - Chase the easy big numbers not transformational change



## Results – the FSR experience

- > Benefit of 8 outcomes for past 2 years (ATPR 2010)
- > Chance to ‘road test’ indicators – do they work?
- > Started embedding the Standard
  - Few projects
  - Portfolio level challenge
  - Long causal chains for research with uncertain impact pathways
- > Guidance on attribution welcomed by others



## Results – some wider issues

- > Culture (frank and fearless'nt)
- > Is the demand for credible results?
- > Will it sustain?
- > Will it drive program management?
- > Not more processes and guidelines!
- > Workforce development





# The way forward

- > Clarifying positions on attribution, aggregation, displacement
- > Fewer simpler indicators
- > Technical notes on application of indicators
- > QA of results (a Standard?!)
- > Communicating results – different needs
- > Integrating results into program management
- > Dedicated Results Unit (P&Q network)