



Australia Awards

# Australia Awards Global Tracer Facility

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# Overview

- An overview of the Facility
- Tracing and engagement
- Research:
  - Tracer Survey
  - Case Studies
  - Year 2 and beyond
- Conclusion



## Outline

- Four-year research project
- Using quantitative and qualitative research methods to collect relevant data on the impact of the Australia Awards (and predecessor scholarships)
  - A Tracing Survey of 1000 responses across the globe
  - Case Studies in countries of award recipients
- Alumni tracing and engagement

## Long term outcomes focus

### The Australia Awards Global Strategy and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework's long term outcomes:

1. Alumni are using their skills, knowledge and networks to contribute to sustainable development.
2. Alumni are contributing to cooperation between Australia and partner countries.
3. Effective, mutually advantageous partnerships between institutions and businesses in Australia and partner countries.
4. Alumni view Australia, Australians and Australian expertise positively.

# Alumni tracing and engagement

## University of Melbourne Pilot: located alumni from 1955 to 1996

- Lack of adequate records
- Requires a multifaceted approach: archives & outreach campaigns
- Time consuming & costly
- Privacy concerns

## Case study engagement with alumni and universities

- Very little contact with Australian Government
- Desire to connect or reengage
- Strong connections with exceptional alumni

## Year 1 Tracer survey

- Survey Instrument focussed on long-term outcomes
- Fieldwork (hybrid online/telephone follow-up)
- Population (completers from 2006-2010, 27 selected countries across five Australia Awards regions)
- Analyses (focus around long term outcomes, mixture of quant statistics and qualitative 'open ended' responses. Key groups, Awards type, gender, region)
- Output (global report, country snapshots, alumni detail updates)
- 1510 respondents, reporting underway

## Tracer Survey Findings

- 1510 respondents, reporting underway
- Strong examples of contributions to development and sharing of knowledge and skills
- Fond memories of Australia and positive views of Australians
- Less evidence of ongoing links and partnerships with Australians and Australian organisations.

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## Case studies:

Alumni in focus

1955 -1996

## Four countries (themes):

- Fiji (education)
- Sri Lanka (engineering)
- Kenya (agriculture and forestry)
- Nepal (public policy)



## 76 interviews:

- 43 alumni
- 14 employers/colleagues
- 10 DFAT staff
- 5 managing contractors
- 1 alumni association
- 4 other key stakeholders



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## Case study findings

- High profile alumni identified
- Very little contact with the Australian Government /universities
- Rich stories, demonstrating the large impact scholarships have had on the lives and careers of recipients and on the development of their countries
- Alumni are keen to reconnect and engage with their universities
- Potential links for universities could include: research & university partnerships, work placements and hosting NCP students

# What we have learned ?

## Big picture long-term Aus Awards outcomes:

- Huge contributions to development
- Lack of connections with Australia – but a desire to reconnect

## Issues in tracing:

- Universities have incomplete or poor records prior to 2000
- Quality of DFAT data prior to 1996 is poor
- Privacy concerns – pilot study findings
- There is potential to build links with those alumni through a variety of ways including: NCP placements, university partnerships and research initiatives

## What does this mean to you?

- Reconnecting with your alumni by:
  - Sharing inspirational alumni stories and data from the annual survey
  - Promoting alumni engagement
  - Vignettes for alumni publications
- Dedicated Alumni Engagement Coordinator to liaise with universities

## Next Steps

### Year 2 – 2017/2018

#### Tracer Survey: alumni focus: 1996 – 2005

- Working with unis to promote – expect to hear from us!
- Working with High Commissions/Consulates to promote

#### Other activities:

- Case study alumni focus: alumni from 2006 -2010 in five countries
- Verification of students in each case study
- Sharing stories and data with key stakeholders

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