MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
The Hon Julie Bishop MP

1 November 2013

A NEW ERA IN DIPLOMACY

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said the integration of AusAID with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on 1 November marked a significant milestone for Australia’s international engagement.

“DFAT is now responsible for development policy and the delivery of Australia’s aid program. The outcome of this major change will be the alignment of Australia’s foreign, trade and development policies and programs in a coherent, effective and efficient way,” Ms Bishop said.

“Australia has a quality aid program, which is well regarded internationally and valued by our development partners,” she said.

Ms Bishop expressed the Government’s appreciation for the dedication and professionalism of staff joining DFAT from AusAID, who have made a strong and valuable contribution to the aid program.

“Integration will enable us to build an even more effective aid program. It will promote Australia’s national interests, through contributing to international economic growth and poverty reduction, and support Australia’s foreign and trade policy.”

“Integration will also strengthen economic diplomacy as the centre of Australia’s international engagement, drawing together our foreign, trade and development policies and diplomatic resources to deliver greater prosperity for Australia and our partner countries in the region and globally,” Ms Bishop said.

Foreign Minister’s Office: 0478 488 874  DFAT Media Liaison: 02 6261 1555