



Australian High Commission

Vanuatu

7 August 2020

Ms. Alice Albright
Chief Executive Officer
Global Partnership for Education Secretariat
1818 H Street NW, IS 6-600
Washington DC, 20433
USA

Support to Vanuatu's application for a GPE Multiplier Grant

Dear Ms. Albright,

This letter is to support Vanuatu's Expression of Interest to avail of the Multiplier Fund for the Education Sector Plan Implementation Grant (ESPIG). The Multiplier Fund resources would greatly increase the impact of the proposed program which focuses on priorities from the Vanuatu Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan (VETSS) as agreed between the Local Education Group and Ministry of Education and Training.

As Coordinating Agency for the GPE in Vanuatu, I confirm that the availability of co-financing from the GPE Multiplier Fund to support component three of the ESPIG program has been discussed by the Local Education Group and was a critical consideration in negotiations around the proposed program.

We understand that Multiplier Funds are in high demand globally and that there is a sense of urgency to secure these funds in order to ensure component three proposed under the EPSIG program outline shared with the GPE is funded. We also recognise the critical needs of the Vanuatu education sector to respond to the compound crises of COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold. In response to these needs, the Government of Australia agreed to increase its development assistance to the education sector to Vanuatu for the 2019-2020 financial year. The Government of Australia prioritised the education sector for the financial year 2019-2020 over other sectors where we work in Vanuatu due to the availability of the GPE Multiplier Fund.

I confirm the value of the additional funding mobilised in 2019-2020 was approximately US\$6.6 million consisting AUD 8.71 million for school grants, teaching and learning materials and recovery of damaged schools and NZD 1 million (provided by the New Zealand Government) for priority infrastructure needs under the VETSS and respective emergency response plans. We understand that this will be sufficient to trigger US\$ 1 million

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from the Multiplier Fund which will have a significant impact on the proposed ESPIG program.

This additional funding has now been dispersed to the Government of Vanuatu through a Direct Funding Arrangement (DFAT Arrangement no. 75133) which Australia manages on behalf of the Governments of Australia and New Zealand. In agreement with Vanuatu, we have formally amended our Vanuatu Education Support Grant to incorporate these additional funds. Due to the immediate needs, we expect Vanuatu's Ministry of Education and Training to begin drawing on these additional funds shortly.

As Coordinating Agency for the GPE in Vanuatu, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is committed to support the implementation of the VETSS and we endorse the Expression of Interest for the Multiplier Fund. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. McWilliam', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cathy McWilliam
First Secretary
Development Cooperation
Australian High Commission, Vanuatu