

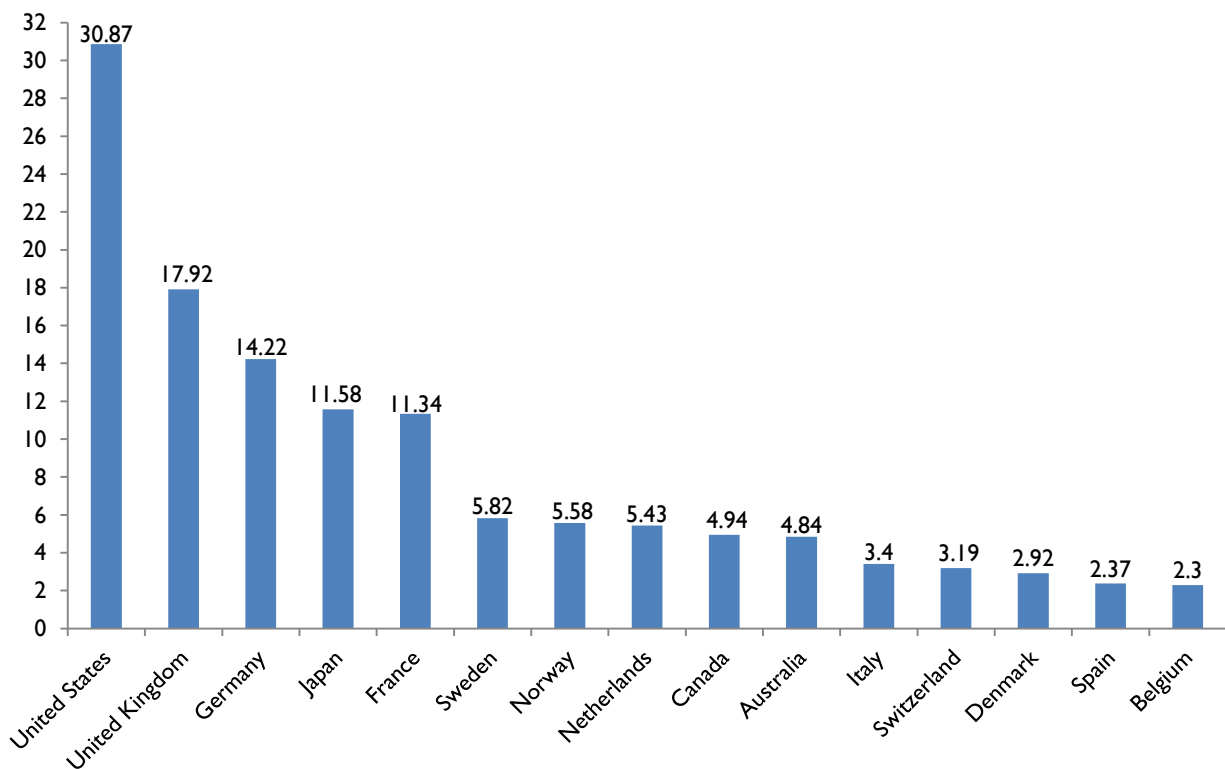
Government aid: who gives aid and how much?

To reduce global poverty governments need to be involved. They have both the wealth and ability to commit to long term funding and support. For example, in 2012-13 individual Australians donated \$949 million to the work of international aid and development non-government organisations¹. The Australian Government, however, in 2012-13 was able to spend \$5,149 million on aid and development assistance².

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is a forum of 34 countries including some of the world’s wealthiest nations. One of their functions is to “promote development co-operation and other policies so as to contribute to sustainable development”³. For example, in 2013, 28 of their member governments committed a total of US\$134.48 billion in aid to developing countries. Graph 1 shows the top 15 OECD donor countries by total dollars provided in official development assistance (ODA).

In 2000, all the wealthy nations of the world agreed at a United Nations (UN) forum to commit 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) to aid for developing countries. In 2013, the Australian Government had committed 0.33% of GNI, which was less than the international average of 0.39%. Graph 2 (on the next page) shows the top 15 OECD donor countries by percentage of Gross National Income provided in official development assistance.

Graph 1: Government aid in dollar amounts (\$US billion) – top 15 OECD donor countries in 2013



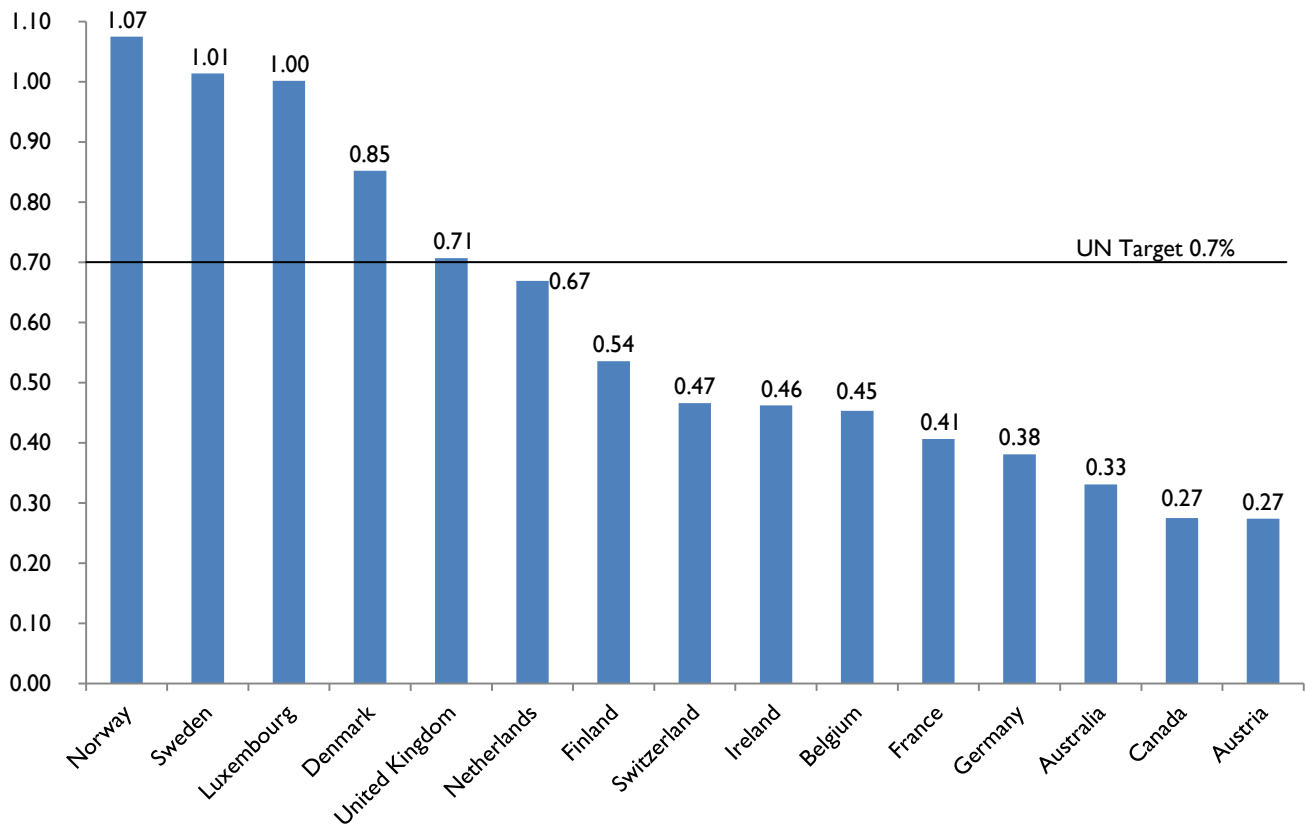
Source of data: OECD, Table 4 Net Official Development Assistance by DAC Country, available at: www.oecd.org/dac/stats/statisticsonresourceflowstodevelopingcountries.htm

¹ ACFID 2014 Annual Report: Financial Statements, pg 22

² AusAID Annual Report 2012-13, pg ix

³ OECD, Development Co-operation Directorate mandate, available at: www.oecd.org/dac/developmentassistancecommittee.htm

Graph 2: Government aid as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) – top 15 OECD donor countries in 2013



Source of data: OECD, Table 4 Net Official Development Assistance by DAC Country, available at: www.oecd.org/dac/stats/statisticsonresourceflowstodevelopingcountries.htm

For you to do

1. From Graph 1, which 3 countries gave the most aid dollars and suggest reasons? Where does Australia rank?
2. From Graph 2, which 3 countries gave the greatest percentage of GNI in aid? Where does Australia rank?
3. What do you notice about your answers to questions 1 and 2?
4. Compare the level of Australian Government aid with the other wealthy OECD countries. How does Australia rank? Write a letter to your Federal Member of Parliament asking him / her to give reasons and explain their party's policy.
5. Explain how the following organisations could use these graphs for different purposes.
 - the Government of the United States of America
 - the Government of Norway
 - a non-government organisation looking to encourage the Australian Government to increase overseas aid