



RESEARCH FOR  
DEVELOPMENT  
IMPACT NETWORK

A collaboration between  
the Australian Council for  
International Development  
and Australian universities

## **RDI Network Committee Meeting**

**University of Melbourne**

**20 November 2017, 9:00am-5:00pm**

**Attendees:** Tessa Hillgrove, Juliet Willetts, Jo Pradela, Thomas Soem, Jo Crawford, Kurt Seemann, Elise Klein, Mike Toole, Joshua Bird, Robyn Mildon, Saba Mebrahtu, Rochelle Spencer, Philippa Smales, Jenny Vaccari, Clancy Moore (consultant)

**Apologies:** Peter Westoby

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### **1) Welcome**

The meeting was opened by Philippa.

**Decision:** The minutes of the September Committee meeting were agreed to.

New committee member was welcomed and introduced to the full committee.

### **2) Funding proposal**

A funding proposal submitted to the RDI Network was discussed.

**Decision:** The Committee unanimously agreed to support the funding proposal.

**Action:** Secretariat to communicate decision to event convenors.

### **3) Strategic Planning**

Continuing the Committee activity which was commenced at the RDI Committee Meeting in September 2017, a strategic planning process was co-lead by the RDI Secretariat and an external consultant.

The purpose of the process was detailed to be a collaborative process aimed at identifying high-level outcomes and intermediate outcomes for the Network's upcoming 3-5 year planning.

The Committee were led through a process utilising both small group and whole-of-Committee discussions to proceed through:

- a) Problem Identification
- b) Causal Loop Analysis
- c) Developing a Theory of Change

A total of three priority problems were addressed throughout the day by the Committee, with suggested outcomes, outputs and activities drafted in line with considerations of identified needs of the sector, sourced from the Committee.

#### 4) Next Steps

The outcomes of this process will be taken forward by a sub-group of the committee following this meeting to re-frame the discussion in a formal way, test with stakeholders and be brought back to Committee for finalisation.

#### 5) Evaluation

The Committee were led through a brief evaluation of the day, with overall agreement that the process had been effectively facilitated, and succeeded to guide and capture a productive strategic planning process in a constrained time period.