



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
PHNOM PENH

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Australian Support for Cambodian General Election in 2003**

The Australian Government will provide A\$1 million as a contribution towards the general election in Cambodia in July 2003.

The contribution will support the development of the new continuous voter registration process which was recently enacted into legislation by the Royal Cambodian Government and will apply for the July 2003 general election. Support will also be provided to non-government organisations (NGOs) that will monitor the election process.

This assistance demonstrates Australia's continuing commitment to building an effective framework for democratic governance in Cambodia. It follows on from the support for Cambodia's first Commune election in February this year, and general support for electoral processes in Cambodia since 1992.

Australia is expected to provide a total of almost A\$40 million in development assistance to Cambodia in 2002-03, including A\$24.5 million through the bilateral country program, which is targeting agriculture, governance, health and human resource development; as well as substantial humanitarian assistance, and support for immigration capacity building. Australia also provides support for military reform in Cambodia.

Media contact: Fleur Davies, Relief First Secretary, Development Cooperation  
Australian Embassy. Extension:308