

Request for Expressions of Interest: Research and Policy Advisory Service Organisations

Australia-Papua New Guinea Economic Partnership (APEP)

APEP-2026-EOI-004

October 2026

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Australia–Papua New Guinea Economic Partnership (APEP) is inviting suitably qualified research institutions, universities, consulting firms and other organisations to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for inclusion on a Preferred Supplier List (PSL) for Research and Policy Advisory Services for the following categories of service:

- Economic and fiscal research;
- Social and public policy research;
- Agricultural and market systems research;
- Business enabling environment and private sector development;
- Quantitative research and data analysis;
- Qualitative and mixed methods research;
- Research quality assurance and peer review; and,
- Policy advice, evidence synthesis and dissemination

The PSL will provide Abt Global with access to pre-qualified providers who may be engaged to deliver short-term research, analysis, policy advice and related technical services for APEP and, where specified in an assignment request, other Abt Global programs. It will provide a flexible mechanism for accessing specialised expertise and short-term technical support as required.

This document sets out the indicative services and how respondents can submit the required information. Inclusion on the list does not guarantee any minimum volume of work or specific assignment.

2. KEY DETAILS

2.1 EOI DATES

EOI Issue date	Friday, 2 October 2026
EOI closing date and time	Friday, 30 October 2026, 5pm Port Moresby time
List period	12 months in the first instance, with possibility of extension

2.2. CONTACT OFFICER

The contact officer for this Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) is the Abt Global Procurement team based in Port Moresby. The contact email address is png.tenders@amspng.org.

2.3 QUESTIONS

Respondents may submit a query or request for clarification arising from this EOI to the nominated contact officer. Questions must be submitted by email up to 5pm Port Moresby time on Friday, 16 October 2026. Questions and answers will be distributed to all registered respondents on the Abt Solicitations page. Refer link below: <https://www.abtglobal.com/doing-business-with-abt/commercial-opportunities>

2.4 EOI SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The following sets out the requirements for the submission of EOIs. Please email the contact officer if you have any questions.

Lodgement

By email to png.tenders@amspng.org

Eligibility

This EOI is open to suitably qualified international and Papua New Guinea based organisations. Respondents must demonstrate relevant experience and capability in one or more of the service categories outlined in this EOI. To be eligible for consideration, organisations must be registered on the company register in Papua New Guinea or relevant company registers in country of registration.

EOI Response requirements

To express an interest in joining this list, respondents are required to:

- (a) complete the response document forming part of this EOI package to express their interest;
- (b) provide an organisation profile document that provides background on your organisation;
- (c) provide daily rates for each nominated service category, inclusive of professional and administrative fees and excluding travel, accommodation and other reimbursable expenses. Respondents should include payment terms and any discounts offered; and,
- (d) provide the following supporting documents:
 - 1. For Papua New Guinea registered organisations:
 - a. IPA Certificate of Good Standing long form (extracted within past 12 months);
 - b. IRC TIN certificate;
 - 2. International organisations:
 - a. Company extract from the registration country's register showing the directors and shareholder of the company
 - 3. CVs of all personnel nominated to deliver the services; and,
 - 4. Certificates of currency for any public liability, professional indemnity and workers compensation insurance.

2.5 EVALUATION PROCESS

Organisations will be assessed for inclusion on the list in two stages:

- (a) Compliance with the EOI response requirements, submission of all requested document, and pre-qualification and due diligence checks; and,
- (b) Assessment against the following technical evaluation criteria:
 - i. Organisation experience: Strong technical expertise and relevant experience undertaking research, analysis or policy assignments in the nominated service categories;
 - Location experience: Experience working in Papua New Guinea, the Pacific, or comparable country/regional contexts;
 - Technical expertise: Demonstrated ability to integrate GEDSI, women's economic empowerment and climate considerations, where relevant; and,
 - Financial information: Daily rates, payment terms, and discounts offered.

2.6 LIST ARRANGEMENT

Successful respondents will be placed on the Preferred Supplier List for an initial period of twelve months. Abt Global may extend the list period at its discretion, subject to ongoing program requirements.

The list will be managed by the Procurement Team. Where services are required, Abt Global may approach a suitable list member directly, request quotations or short proposals from one or more relevant list members. The method will be determined case by case, taking account of the nature, value, complexity and urgency of the assignment.

Any engagement will be subject to a separate scope of services, agreed fees and execution of an appropriate contract. Inclusion on the list does not guarantee work.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 ABT GLOBAL

Abt Global is a mission-driven, global leader with a proven track record in complex program implementation in the international development sector. We offer bold solutions and technical excellence in Health, Economic Growth, Governance, Research & Evaluation, Environment & Energy, Gender Equality & Social Inclusion. Working with our many partners, we have driven measurable social impact for more than 55 years, to achieve our mission of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people worldwide. We operate in remote and challenging environments and employ more than 3,700 staff in over 50 countries. For more information about us and what we do, visit our website at <https://www.abtglobal.com.au/>

3.2 AUSTRALIA–PAPUA NEW GUINEA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

The Australia–Papua New Guinea Economic Partnership (APEP) is a multi-sectoral investment which commenced in April 2022 and runs through February 2028, with the possibility of a two-year extension. APEP is delivered as part of the broader Australia–Papua New Guinea Partnership and is supported by the Australian Government and implemented by Abt Global.

APEP works collaboratively with government, the private sector, civil society, research institutions and development partners across four engagement areas:

- Safeguarding Macroeconomic Stability
- Supporting More Efficient and Inclusive Markets
- Fostering Inclusive Growth and Expanded Livelihoods
- Catalysing Economic Research and Dialogue

Gender equality, disability and social inclusion, women's economic empowerment and climate are central to APEP and integrated across engagement areas and activities.

3.3 RESEARCH AND POLICY ADVISORY SERVICES LIST

Research and evidence are integral to APEP's work across all engagement areas. The Economic Research and Dialogue workstream supports the generation, translation and application of evidence to inform policy development, activity design, implementation, monitoring and public dialogue.

To support this work, APEP is establishing a Research and Policy Advisory Services List for international and PNG organisations. Listed members may be engaged on a short-term basis to provide research, analysis, policy advice, peer review and related technical services across APEP's engagement areas.

Assignments may vary in scope, duration and level of effort and will be agreed in writing before work commences. Inclusion on the Panel does not guarantee any minimum volume of work or specific assignment.

Research is cross-cutting across APEP. The Economic Research and Dialogue workstream supports the generation and application of evidence to inform policy, investment design, implementation, monitoring and public dialogue. The Preferred Supplier List will provide flexible access to research and advisory expertise across all workstreams.

4. SERVICES

The table below sets out the categories of services that may be requested from list members. Respondents should nominate in the Response Form the service categories for which they are submitting an Expression of Interest. Respondents may nominate more than one service category.

Number of Category	Category of Services	Indicative Services
1	Economic and fiscal research	Macroeconomic and fiscal analysis; economic policy research; financial sector analysis; economic modelling; and comparative economic research.
2	Social and public policy research	Social research; public policy analysis; governance and institutional research; political economy analysis; and evidence reviews.
3	Agricultural and market systems research	Agricultural value-chain analysis; agribusiness research; market systems analysis; producer and market assessments; and sector studies.
4	Business enabling environment and private sector development	Investment climate and regulatory analysis; SME and enterprise research; access to finance; business systems strengthening; and private sector assessments.
5	Quantitative research and data analysis	Survey design; quantitative data collection; statistical analysis; economic and social data analysis; modelling; and data visualisation.
6	Qualitative and mixed-methods research	Research design; interviews; focus groups; stakeholder consultations; field-based research; qualitative analysis; and mixed-methods studies.
7	Research quality assurance and peer review	Methodological review; technical review; peer review; quality assurance; research management advice; and review of milestone deliverables.
8	Policy advice, evidence synthesis and dissemination	Rapid evidence reviews; literature reviews; policy briefs; discussion papers; research translation; concept and activity design support; and dissemination and dialogue activities.

5. EOI CONDITIONS

5.1 ABOUT THIS REQUEST DOCUMENT

This EOI is an invitation to treat and shall not be construed, interpreted, or relied upon, whether expressly or impliedly, as an offer capable of acceptance by any professional, firm or organisation or as creating any form of contractual, quasi-contractual, restitutionary or other relationship.

No binding legal relationship will arise out of this process until execution of a contract with a service provider.

5.2 ELIGIBILITY

The following conditions must be met by the respondent:

- a) the respondent must exist as a legal entity at the closing time and date;
- b) the respondent must be registered on the relevant country register of companies and be operating as a company or an association (partnerships may be considered);
- c) at the time of lodgement of their EOI, the respondent must not have been:
 - i. precluded from bidding for Australian Government funded work; or
 - ii. subject to a judicial decision against them relating to employee entitlements (not including decisions under appeal), and have not paid the claim; and
 - iii. the respondent must be solvent and financially capable to undertake the proposed contract work and to perform such work and to undertake the necessary expenditure without anticipated financial difficulties and must be able to so demonstrate prior to contract award.

Abt Global will exclude from consideration any response if the respondent or one of its related entities is listed by:

- a) the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs under the Charter of the United Nations Act 1945 and/or listed in regulations made under Division 102 of the Criminal Code Act 1995. Further information about listed persons and entities is available from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website at www.dfat.gov.au
- b) the World Bank on its “Listing of Ineligible Firms” or “Listing of Firms Letters of Reprimand” posted at www.worldbank.org (the “World Bank List”); or
- c) any other donor of development funding on a list similar to the World Bank List.

5.3 MINIMUM CONTENT AND FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

Abt Global will exclude a response from further consideration if Abt Global considers in its absolute discretion that the response does not meet the minimum content and format requirements specified in this document.

5.4 LATE LODGEMENT

Abt Global will exclude late responses and will not admit them to the evaluation process unless Abt Global determines the response may be considered or has caused or contributed to the failure to lodge by the closing date and time. The response is considered late if:

- a) it is submitted after the closing date and time; or
- b) it is incomplete as at the closing date and time (including where the response includes electronic files that cannot be read or unencrypted).

5.5 EOI MODIFICATION PROCEDURE

Abt Global may, in its absolute discretion, issue modifications to this EOI before the closing date and time.

If Abt Global elects to issue modifications, Abt Global will issue a formal addendum via email to all registered respondents. It is the responsibility of respondents to ensure they have registered their interest and contact details with the contact officer so that they are able to receive all modifications.

All conditions and rules of this EOI will apply to all addenda unless modified by the addenda. Any such addenda will become part of the EOI.

5.6 UNINTENTIONAL ERRORS OF FORM

If an unintentional error of form in a response is identified, Abt Global may in its absolute discretion allow correction of that error by the submission of a correction, variation or additional information.

An unintentional error of form is an error that Abt Global is satisfied in its absolute discretion:

- a) represents incomplete information not consistent with the respondent's intentions and, if relevant, capabilities at the time the submission was lodged; and
- b) does not materially affect the competitiveness of the respondent's response.

5.7 OWNERSHIP OF RESPONSE MATERIAL

All material submitted in response to this EOI becomes the property of Abt Global. By submitting a response, the respondent allows Abt Global to copy and do anything necessary to material, including the respondent's intellectual property contained in the response, for the purpose of evaluating the respondent's response and negotiating a Contract if the respondent proceeds to that phase of the process.

5.8 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

During the EOI process, the respondent must immediately advise Abt Global in writing of any circumstances or relationships constituting an actual, potential or perceived Conflict of Interest in respect to its response, or the obligations under the Contract if the respondent is awarded the Contract. Abt Global may in its absolute discretion:

- a) enter into discussions to seek to address such Conflict of Interest;
- b) exclude the respondent from the process and further evaluation; or
- c) take any other action it considers appropriate.

5.9 HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY

The respondent, if appointed, must at all times, identify, comply with and exercise all necessary, duties and precautions for the health, safety and security of all persons including the respondent's employees, subcontractors, subcontractor's employees, employees of Abt Global and other persons who may be affected by the delivery of the contract work.

5.10 INSURANCE

All potential respondents must have appropriate insurance cover as a condition of submitting a response and, at a minimum, the insurance requirements specified in the draft contract. If the respondent is not yet covered by any of these insurances, Abt Global requires the respondent to provide a certification that it is willing to get coverage of these insurances if to provide services for Abt Global.

5.11 ETHICAL DEALING, FINANCIAL AND PROBITY CHECKS

Abt Global's policy is to engage in the highest standards of ethical behaviour and fair dealing throughout the EOI process. Abt Global requires the same standards from those with whom it deals. Respondents must compile responses without improper assistance of employees or former employees of Abt Global and without the use of information improperly obtained or in breach of an obligation of confidentiality. Respondents should not:

- a) engage in misleading or deceptive conduct in relation to the procurement process;
- b) engage in any collusive submissions, anti-competitive conduct, or any other unlawful or unethical conduct with any other respondent, or any other person in connection with the procurement process; or
- c) attempt to influence improperly any officer, employee or agent of Abt Global, or violate any applicable laws or Abt Global policies regarding the offering of inducements in connection with the procurement process.

Abt Global may exclude from consideration any respondent which, in Abt Global's reasonable opinion, has engaged in any behaviour contrary to this section in relation to the procurement process.

Abt Global (or its agents) may perform such security, probity, and financial investigations and procedures as Abt Global may determine are necessary in relation to any respondent, its employees, officers, partners, associates, sub-contractors or related entities including consortium members and their officers, employees and sub-contractors.

Respondents should promptly provide Abt Global with such information or documentation that Abt Global requires in order to undertake such investigation. A response may be rejected by Abt Global if the respondent does not

promptly provide, at its own cost, all reasonable assistance to Abt Global in this regard or based on the outcomes of the investigations or procedures.

Abt Global may also make independent enquiries about any matters that may be relevant to the evaluation of a response.

5.12 SAFEGUARDING

Prior to working with Abt Global respondents must have appropriate child protection policies in place and/or be willing to comply with Abt Global and DFAT's latest Child Protection Policy. DFAT's Child Protection Policy is available on its website. Respondents engaged to work with Abt Global will be required to work with Abt Global to implement any necessary Child Protection Implementation Plan for medium and high-risk activities.

Respondents should be aware of the DFAT Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy available on the DFAT website. Respondents engaged to work with Abt Global may be required to submit a narrative response and risk assessment in relation to this policy and to work with Abt Global to implement any requirements for medium and high-risk activities.

5.13 COSTS BORNE BY SUPPLIER

All costs and expenses incurred by respondents in any way associated with the development, preparation and submission of the response, including but not limited to attendance at meetings, site visits, discussions, presentations and providing any additional material required by Abt Global, will be borne exclusively by the respondents.

5.14 SUPPLIER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Respondents are considered to have:

- a) examined this EOI, any documents referenced in this EOI and any other information made available by Abt Global to respondents for the purpose of responding;
- b) examined all further information which is obtainable by the making of reasonable enquiries relevant to the risks, contingencies, and other circumstances having an effect on their response;
- c) undertaken their own professional advice in respect of this EOI, any other information provided to Respondents and the procurement process generally, as appropriate;
- d) satisfied themselves as to the correctness and sufficiency of their response including submitted prices; and
- e) satisfied themselves as to the terms and conditions of the Draft Contract and its ability to comply with the Draft Contract.

Responses are submitted on the basis that Respondents acknowledge:

- a) they do not rely on any representation, letter, document or arrangement, whether oral or in writing, or other conduct as adding to or amending these conditions other than addenda; and
- b) they do not rely upon any warranty or representation made by or on behalf of Abt Global, except as are expressly provided for in this EOI, but they have relied entirely upon their own inquiries and inspection in respect of the response.

5.15 RIGHTS OF ABT GLOBAL

Abt Global is not bound contractually, or in any other way to respondents who respond to this EOI. Abt Global reserves the right not to proceed with this EOI or any part of it, and to suspend or vary the EOI and/or its requirements at any stage.

Without limiting any other rights contained in this EOI, Abt Global may do any or all of the following at any time:

- a) not proceed with the procurement activity;
- b) suspend, defer or change the structure and timing of the procurement activity;

- c) forward any clarification about this EOI to all known respondents on a non-attributable basis and without disclosing any confidential information of a respondent;
- d) negotiate with one or more persons who have not submitted responses or enter into a contract or other binding relationship for similar specifications outside of this procurement process; and/or
- e) terminate any negotiations being conducted at any time with the respondents.