



Australia to seek Pacific input on aid program

By Online Editor

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Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for the Pacific, Richard Marles

Australia says it wants to hear the views of Pacific Island states as part of Canberra's recently announced review of the delivery of its overseas aid program.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Pacific, Richard Marles, says he will be canvassing views in meetings during his current visit to the region.

In his second visit to the region, Mr Marles will visit Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, American Samoa and Niue.

Australia spends a quarter of its aid budget in the Pacific.

Speaking from Nauru, where he is holding talks and visiting the Australian funded Nauru secondary school, Mr Marles said he would be canvassing views on Australia's aid program.

“We're very keen to hear what they have to say about the delivery of our aid program,” he said.

“We'd be keen to get their voices included in the review so that we can understand how the program is actually working in the eyes of those that are the recipients of that aid.”.

SOURCE: RADIO AUSTRALIA/PACNEWS