

# Treatment and question plan for China in Pacific aid experiment

1 May 2019

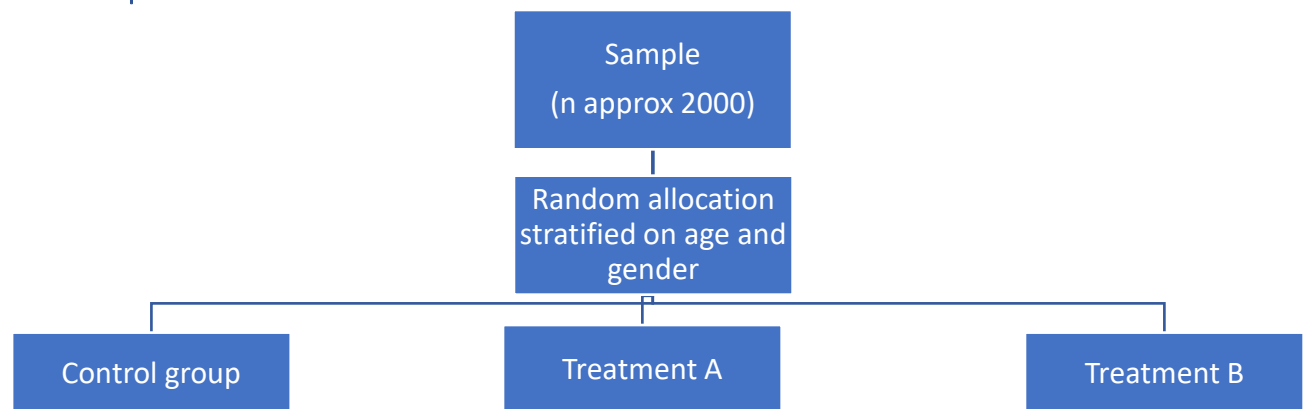
Questions? Email [terence.wood@anu.edu.au](mailto:terence.wood@anu.edu.au)

## Contents

Treatments.....	2
<b>General plan</b> .....	2
<b>Content of treatments</b> .....	2
Treatment A – balanced.....	2
Treatment two – one sided.....	2
<b>Questions</b> .....	3
Aid volume .....	3
Aid geographic focus.....	3
Aid purpose.....	3

## Treatments

### General plan



### Content of treatments

#### Treatment A – balanced

#### *New research shows China is now an important aid donor to the Pacific*

8 October 2018

China is now an important provider of foreign aid to the Pacific according to a new Lowy Institute study.

The Lowy Institute’s work shows that in 2016, the most recent year with data, China was the fourth largest donor to Pacific Island countries, giving slightly more money than the United States, but less than Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

Commenting on the finding, Jonathan Pryke, Director of the Lowy Institute’s Pacific Islands Program, said: “China is now in the top tier of aid donors to the Pacific. This will have economic and strategic ramifications. Aid can buy power. We need to keep things in perspective though. Australia still gives over five times as much aid to the Pacific as China does.”

#### Treatment two – one sided

#### *Chinese aid buys power in the Pacific*

8 October 2018

China is now one of the largest donors of foreign aid to the Pacific according to a new Lowy Institute study.

The Lowy Institute’s work shows that in 2016, the most recent year with data, China gave over \$100 million US dollars to Pacific Island countries – nearly twice as much as the United States gave in the

same year. Since 2012, China has lent more to the Pacific than many major international organisations, including the World Bank.

Commenting on the finding, Jonathan Pryke, Director of the Lowy Institute's Pacific Islands Program, said: "China's influence as an aid donor has grown substantially in the Pacific. There's a real anxiety, now, that China will use this influence to pave the way for stronger strategic ties, including establishing permanent military bases in Australia's immediate region."

## Questions

### Aid volume

Every year the Australian government gives aid money to poorer countries. Currently just under \$1 out of every \$100 of federal government spending is given as aid. Which one of the following options best reflects your opinion about aid spending:

<single response; randomly flip response order, except don't know which stays last>

1. The Australian government gives far too much aid.
2. The Australian government gives too much aid.
3. The Australian government gives about the right amount of aid.
4. The Australian government gives too little aid.
5. The Australian government gives far too little aid.
6. I don't know.

### Aid geographic focus

About 30% of Australian foreign aid is spent in the Pacific. The rest is spent in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Do you think that Australia should:

<single response; randomly flip response order, except don't know which stays last>

1. Spend more than 30% of its aid on the Pacific
2. Keep spending about 30% on the Pacific
3. Spend less than 30% of its aid on the Pacific
4. I don't know

### Aid purpose

Do you think Australian government aid to poor countries should be given primarily for the purpose of helping people in poor countries, or do you think Australian aid should be given primarily to help advance Australian interests and help Australians?

<single response; randomly flip response order, except don't know which stays last>

1. Strongly favour helping people in poor countries
2. Favour helping people in poor countries
3. Favour Australia's interests
4. Strongly favour Australia's interests
5. I don't know