A brighter future for all

What can you do now?

If you believe that being Australian means helping to build a better future for every person, join the Campaign for Australian Aid at australianaid.org

Once you’ve signed up:

1. Stay up-to-date on Facebook
2. Join the conversation on Twitter with @campaignforaid and #australianaid
3. Find out how you can stand up for Australian Aid in your electorate at australianaid.org

Front cover photo credit: Cambodia - Working in the rice paddies by Kevin Evans
Thank you.

You’ve sent kids to school in rural Vietnam, built bridges that grow businesses in the Mekong, pumped water to villages in Flores, and loaned funds to budding agricultural entrepreneurs. You’ve given the world’s most promising people the building blocks of a brighter future – because you are Australian and we’re for Australian aid.

Through Australian aid, you’ve already played a part in some of the best and brightest stories around our world. So, we want to thank you for the work that’s been done in your name and ask you to join us for an even brighter future.

3 Commit to progress

We call on the Australian Government to:

1. Commit to implementing, through appropriate accountability mechanisms, instruments that:
   i. Provide a purpose for the Australian aid program.
   ii. Provide a definition of ‘development assistance’.
   iii. Establish an independent Office of Development Effectiveness to evaluate the effectiveness of Australia’s aid program.
   iv. Provide a target and trajectory for the size of the Australian aid program.

2. Provide a mechanism for reporting to parliament:
   i. The achievement of the purpose of the aid program.
   ii. Effectiveness of the program.
   iii. Progress towards reaching the target for size of the aid program.
   iv. Any reduction in the aid program from the previous year’s budget.
   v. The Australian aid budget through Ministerial Statement covering country and thematic aid allocations.
10 reasons we’re for Australian aid

In 2014 alone, Australian aid:

1. Helped get **1.3 million** more children into school.
2. Built more than **9,000 new classrooms**.
3. Trained over **100,000 teachers**.
4. Equipped more than **400,000 farmers** with better technology.
5. Vaccinated more than **2.3 million children**.
6. Supplied **2.9 million people** with access to safe drinking water.
7. Ensured nearly **1 million more mothers** had access to a skilled birth attendant.
8. Increased access to basic sanitation for over **1 million people**.
9. Provided critical services for more than **66,000 women** who have survived violence.
10. Responded to **emergencies in 24 countries** including Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and flooding in Solomon Islands.

Incredibly, these life-saving investments were achieved by a program on which we invest less than one per cent of the Federal Budget.
Australia: Then and now

In the year 2000, Australia did some remarkable things on the world stage. We hosted the Olympic Games in Sydney, we stood by East Timor as they voted for independence, and we signed on to the Millennium Development Goals, joining 188 other nations aiming to halve extreme poverty by 2015.

Looking back, it’s incredible to see how much that year meant to so many people around the world. The ‘best Olympic games ever’ were beamed into cities around the world. East Timor has begun to build its own future, and the Millennium Development Goals have helped over 1 billion people overcome the obstacles of poverty, becoming, in the words of United Nations Secretary General, Ban-Ki Moon, ‘the most successful anti-poverty movement in history.’

More recently, however, Australia has been shrinking from its role on the world stage. When we signed up to the MDGs we promised to grow our Australian aid program in line with the rest of the world. While other countries have increased their aid programs, we’ve reduced Australian aid to its lowest ever level.
Work with purpose

We call on the Australian Government to:

1. Adopt a revised purpose for the Australian aid program of assisting people to overcome poverty through contributing to eliminating extreme poverty, reducing inequality, promoting sustainable development and protecting human rights.

2. Endorse the Global Goals and adopt them as a framework for the policies, priorities and performance benchmarks of the Australian aid program.

In pursuing this, the Australian aid program:

1. Focuses on where there is greatest need, particularly in our greater region and where our aid can make the most difference.

2. Assists partner governments to establish and fund universal public services such as healthcare, education, water and sanitation.

3. Ensures aid programs target the poorest 40% of people in developing countries – including disadvantaged groups such as women and girls, people with a disability, indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups.

Funding Australian aid

On average, Australians think we invest 16% of the budget on Australian aid. On average, Australians think we should invest 12% of the budget on Australian aid. In reality, we only invest around 1% of the budget on Australian aid.

Source: Hanson, F. (2011), "Australia and the World," Lowy Institute for Foreign Policy, p.1

Our generosity over time

Aid invested as a percentage of national income
That’s why we exist

We’re a joint initiative of the Make Poverty History and Micah Challenge coalitions for all Australians who believe we can and should do more as a nation to end extreme poverty around the world. Australian aid provides opportunities for people, communities and whole countries to build a brighter future – it’s work that we should celebrate now, and look back on with pride in years to come.

More than 3 million people engaged with our campaign in the first half of 2015.

More than 55,000 Australians took action through our campaign asking for a fairer Australian aid budget.

On budget night #AustralianAid trended nationwide. By the end of the night more than 62,000 people had joined our campaign.

1 Keep our promise

We call on the Australian Parliament to:

1. Establish a bi-partisan commitment to a target and trajectory for ODA reaching 0.7% of GNI by 2030 commensurate with Australia’s international obligations and the commitments made as part of the Global Goals.

2. Restore the Australian aid budget to approximately $5.5 billion (0.3%GNI) during the life of the next parliament (2016-2019).
Our three calls

We see three steps to ensuring that Australia plays its part in the Global Goals.

1. **Keep our promise**
   Australia’s leaders agree to a bi-partisan commitment, and a robust plan, to reach the promised level of aid by 2030 and restore the Australian aid budget.

2. **Work with purpose**
   The Australian Government focuses aid in areas where we can have the biggest impact, breaking down the barriers of poverty for the world’s poorest and most vulnerable communities, and works with other governments to do the same.

3. **Commit to progress**
   The Australian Government commits to a program of accountability, reporting to parliament on the size, effectiveness, impact and plans for the Australian aid program.

We’ve got more detail on each of these steps over the page.

Our place in the world

Australia has always played its part on the world stage. Whether in moments of anguish, like the Boxing Day Tsunami, or moments of triumph, like the birth of East Timor, Australians are there. It’s part of who we are.

We also know that helping others is good for us. Our best future is directly connected to a fairer, and safer region, where every person has the opportunity to thrive.

With that in mind, Australia has agreed to the Global Goals. These new, courageous goals pick up from the success of the MDGs and call on all countries to work together to end extreme poverty, reduce inequality and secure a safer, more sustainable planet by 2030.

These goals may be ambitious, but Australians always rise to a challenge. We’ve committed to the Global Goals, so now we must play our part in building a brighter future for all.
Global Goals

In 2015 the Millennium Development Goals concluded, having been declared the ‘most successful anti-poverty movement in history.’ In coming together, the world halved extreme poverty since 1990. Now, we’ve made a promise to continue that great work with the Global Goals.