

## Giant Toilet Tour to Give Poverty the Flush

Micah Challenge and WaterAid Media Release 28 May 2012

[Download Images](#)

The launch of the 'Toilet Tour' in Tamworth last Saturday proved a giant success with over 100 people joining the queue of 2.5 billion people across the world that do not have access to basic sanitation.

The toilet was hosted at the Tamworth LifeFest as part of a national Toilet Tour travelling up the east coast, across the great bite of South Australia, into Adelaide and then across to Western Australia, finishing its journey in Melbourne on World Toilet Day on 19 November.

As festival goers practiced their aim by throwing toilet paper into the Giant Toilet, Tamworth's Regional Council Deputy Mayor, Russell Webb, joined in to learn more about the global sanitation crisis.

"It was a fantastic day – the giant toilet is such an engaging way to attract people's attention and be able to tell them more about what the Australian government can do. There was never a dull moment," said Event Coordinator, Simon Massey.

In 2000 world leaders agreed to a set of goals to reduce global poverty by 2015, called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Despite actions to increase the focus on water, health and sanitation in recent years, the Australian Government spends around 1% of the aid program on sanitation, one of the most off-track MDG targets. The Government plans to reach 5 million people with sanitation facilities in the next four years which represents just 0.2% of the 2.5 billion people who currently live without decent sanitation.

"The long term goal is universal access to hygienic working toilets for all people. Our government can help us take significant steps to making that goal a reality," said John Beckett, National Coordinator for Micah Challenge. "We're calling on it to invest at least \$500 million each year in water, sanitation and hygiene – with at least half this amount directed to sanitation and hygiene programs."

Community events in over 35 Australian electorates which feature the Giant Toilet plan to draw Australia's attention to the global sanitation crisis in an effort to encourage the Government to see this basic necessity as an aid priority. Supporters are being asked to join the queue, sign petitions for their local MP and snap a photo of themselves with the Giant Toilet.

The Toilet Tour is jointly organised by Micah Challenge and WaterAid. For information or to host an event visit [www.toilettour.org.au](http://www.toilettour.org.au).

ENDS

**For Media enquiries contact:**

Angela Owen – Media and Communications Coordinator, Micah Challenge  
02 9356 8500 | [angela.owen@micahchallenge.org.au](mailto:angela.owen@micahchallenge.org.au)

*Micah Challenge is a global movement of Christians speaking out against poverty and injustice. WaterAid works with local partners to help local communities and campaigns to ensure that water and sanitation's vital role in reducing poverty is recognised.*