

**14 June 2016
MEDIA RELEASE**



Greens commit to increase Australia's aid to 0.7% GNI by 2025

Micah Australia welcomes today's announcement by the Australian Greens of a policy to increase Australia's overseas aid budget to 0.7% of GNI over the coming decade.

"We welcome the Greens' new policy platform and commitment to increasing Australia's aid budget and also to improve the aid program's transparency and accountability. We urge the Greens to negotiate with other parties to implement this policy if able to do so," said Ben Thurley, National Coordinator of Micah Australia.

As part of the policy announcement, the Parliamentary Budget Office has costed the boost from 0.23% of GNI to 0.7% at a total of \$7.97 billion over the forward estimates by 2020.

"Getting the Parliamentary Budget Office to cost the pathway to 0.7% by 2025-26 is a welcome move as we can now see there is a clear trajectory to lifting Australian aid to the international target – a pathway which we urge all parties to commit to," said Mr Thurley.

"After years of damaging the aid program's effectiveness with cuts and changes, the call for greater transparency in our aid program is also welcome."

"We urge all parties to continue to the work of rebuilding and reinvesting in our aid program as we believe that our country's commitment to tackling global poverty is a moral issue, above party politics. Australian aid is one of the ways we, as a wealthy nation, help build a fairer world, and work to save and improve lives in our region and beyond".

Last year alone, Australian Aid helped to: vaccinate more than 2.8 million children, ensure over 2.2 million more people gained access to safe drinking water, and more than 800,000 people gained access to basic sanitation, ensure treatment for more than 1.5 million people with HIV/AIDS and more than 1.3 million people with tuberculosis, distribute more than 130 million treated bed nets to fight malaria, and respond to humanitarian crises and natural disasters in 15 countries (including Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu and the major earthquake in Nepal).

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To organise an interview with Ben Thurley call Angela Owen on 0422 985 288 or email angela.owen@micahaustralia.org.

Micah Australia is a coalition of churches and Christian organisations raising a powerful voice for justice and a world free from poverty.

