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[We 'absolutely' agree Minister! Bishop shocks with aid admission](#)

Micah Australia today welcomed the Minister for Foreign Affairs brief yet clear statement on Australian aid given yesterday.

On Thursday while being interviewed at the Australian British Chamber of Commerce, when asked 'does Australia need a bigger aid budget?', Julie Bishop smiled and said 'absolutely'.

Matt Darvas, Campaign Director of Micah Australia said he believes the sector's message is getting through to the Minister.

'Of course we don't know exactly what this means and the spirit in which things are sometimes said, but it would look like on the back of a successful bipartisan trip to the North Pacific and some strong advocacy from the aid and development sector, that the message of the need for an increased aid budget is starting to sink in.'

'The importance of a generous aid budget, not just for protecting the most vulnerable citizens of the world, but for cementing Australia's soft power, and our role in the region is indisputable.'

Australian aid is currently at the lowest level in history and will fall to 0.19 cents of GNI in 2021.

'We need to be a leader in this area again. It's great to see Australia's re-engagement with the Pacific, but it's time to start rebuilding our aid budget so we can be even more effective as a nation.'

'What's also surprising is that this comment comes on the back of five consecutive cuts to the aid budget, all while the Government has been boasting about recent strong economic growth!'

'On the back of this, the question is, does Ms Bishop speak for everyone else in her party? We seem to be getting mixed messages on what the Coalition believes about the level and importance of our aid budget.'

'Our clear message for the Minister after her brief remark is 'Yes! We absolutely agree, now what's the plan?'

Media Contact: Beck Wilesmith | 0403 569 773 | [beck.wilesmith@micahaustralia.org](mailto:beck.wilesmith@micahaustralia.org)

Micah Australia is a coalition of Australia's largest Christian non-government organisations raising a powerful voice for justice and a world free from poverty.

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