

## MEDIA RELEASE



Exclusive Release

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### **Tim Costello calls Australian Christians to Canberra to advocate for the world's poor at Voices for Justice 2018**

Hundreds of Christians from across the nation will gather in Canberra from 1-4 December this year, for four powerful days of training, prayer, worship and political advocacy at Voices for Justice Conference.

The flagship event of Micah Australia first held in 2006, Voices for Justice is back this year, in what promises to be significant event in the run up to the next federal election.

"Never before has there been a more crucial time for the body of Christ to stand as one and speak up for justice," said Tim Costello, Executive Director of Micah Australia.

"I strongly believe we are at a crossroads as a nation: will we continue to follow the current trend of turning inwards, or will we heed the words of Jesus and love our neighbour, reaching beyond our own comforts and fears?"

"I am personally inviting every Christian to make their way to Canberra this December so that together, we can raise a unified voice to our nation's leaders on behalf of the world's poor."

For the beginner and experienced campaigner alike, Voices for Justice is an opportunity to gather with like-minded Christians and be equipped in political advocacy over two days, followed by two days of lobbying in Parliament House.

This year's worship and lobbying event follows the beginning of a new era for Micah Australia, now under the leadership of Tim Costello as Executive Director and Matt Darvas as Campaign Director.

It also follows the fifth consecutive cut to the Australian aid budget, now at its lowest level in history, announced in May this year.

"On the back of five successive cuts to aid, and the current political climate of fear and nationalism we find ourselves in, the importance of Christians speaking up on behalf of justice, humility and mercy cannot be overstated," said Matt Darvas.

"Voices for Justice is an unrivalled opportunity for every Christian who has a heart for justice: you'll gain a deeper understanding of Biblical justice, while also receiving practical training to advocate in the political space."

"The event will be more than a powerful one-off conference and lobbying event, it will also equip Christians with new tools, strategies and networks for ongoing campaigning and connecting in their local churches and communities."

Campaigners will meet with politicians to urge them to elevate Australia's contribution to a world free from poverty, with a focus on a generous and effective aid program.

Micah Australia this week announced Adam Taylor, the Executive Director of Sojourners, as the main guest speaker for the conference.

Rev. Taylor previously led the Faith Initiative at the World Bank Group and served as the Vice President of Advocacy at World Vision U.S. He has also served as the Executive Director of Global Justice, an organisation that educates and mobilises students around global human rights and economic justice.

“We are honoured to be hosting Adam Taylor at this year’s conference. Adam has a powerful story to share about social justice and civil activism and how they are core to being followers of Jesus” said Matt Darvas.

“For young people especially, the chance to hear firsthand from the likes of Adam Taylor and Tim Costello on how to bring the prophetic voice to the public space, is a significant opportunity. You don’t want to miss this powerful event in our nation’s capital.”

Tickets are now available for the conference with **early bird discounts ending on 31 August**. Discounted group prices are also available.

For more information and to register go to [www.micahaustralia.org/voices](http://www.micahaustralia.org/voices)

Current Ticket information:

Early Bird Tickets (Available Until 31 August):	Full Price Tickets (after 31 August)
Individual price \$150	Individual price \$200
Group price (min five people) \$120 each	Group price (min five people) \$150 each

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

[www.micahaustralia.org](http://www.micahaustralia.org)

