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There is good news on the horizon after another kick in the guts for aid

Tim Costello has today welcomed the Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade *first report for the inquiry into Australia's aid program in the Indo-Pacific*.

"After another devastating blow to the aid budget this week, there is finally some good news on the horizon."

"This report shows that politicians on both sides clearly know the right way forward for our aid program and have recognised that a serious injustice has been done to the aid budget over the past few years."

"What has happened has not been fair, nor has it been smart."

In the report, the Committee identified a need to 'strengthen Australians' confidence in the aid program.'

The Committee also recommended measures to raise awareness about the benefits of Australia's aid program in the public, and that the Australian Government should commit to a timeframe to increase Australia's investment in aid over the coming decade.

Tim Costello said the report was heartening for those who have been advocating for the world's poor for many years.

"When was the last time you heard something bipartisan on aid? Well here it is."

"I am calling on both Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten to back this report on aid and show bipartisan leadership."

Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee, Mr Chris Crewther MP said, "Australia has the capacity to do more, and stability and certainty in the aid budget will enable Australia's aid program to build on its achievements through new investments to assist women and girls, people with a disability, and other poor and marginalised groups."

Mr Costello said the report was a step in the right direction in making a case for a better way to deal with aid.

"As this report details, good, long-term development requires stability and predictability in funding. But each year the sector experiences a 'merry-go-round', wondering whether there will be cuts or not.

We need proper bipartisan agreement and a clear way forward, and I will be advocating strongly for this."

“The Indo-Pacific region needs a generous and outward-focused Australia.”

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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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