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Aid groups welcome 'miracle' recommendation for Australia to increase foreign aid

By Stephen Dziedzic on Pacific Beat

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There's a surprise bipartisan push for dramatic increases to Australia's foreign aid, worth billions of dollars.

Only three days ago the Australian Government handed down a budget which included a further aid cuts and with no increases for another three years.

But now a group of MPs, from both of Australia's major parties, have issued a call for the country to dramatically ramp up aid over the coming decade.

The Parliamentary Committee has been examining Australia's aid program over the past few months and its interim report was tabled on Thursday.

Aid groups have welcomed the suggestion, with Tim Costello from Micah, a coalition of churches that advocates for aid increases, saying he was surprised.

"As a man of faith, I should believe in miracles so this is one of those miracles," Reverend Costello told Pacific Beat.

"We have been smashing aid, giving us a leave pass when the rest of the world is carrying our burden. This gives us at least a glimmer of hope".

Duration: 4min 37sec

Broadcast: Fri 5 Apr 2019, 7:00am

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