

MEDIA RELEASE



Date of Issue: 19/05/2019

Christians welcome Scott Morrison as PM, but will expect more of him when it comes to the poor and the planet.

Micah Australia has today offered congratulations to Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his party on the federal election results.

“There is no doubt that we have a PM with a genuine and steadfast Christian faith which has formed much of his life and many Christians are incredibly proud of that,” said Matt Darvas, Micah’s Campaign Director.

“Now that Mr Morrison has been given such a clear mandate to lead, there will be many Christians and Christian organisations, Micah included, that will be looking to him for strong vision and policy on Australia being a more compassionate and generous nation.”

“Specifically, there is a younger generation of church-goers who want to see decisive action for the planet and the poor.”

“This group of Christians cares about things like religious freedom, and many will welcome the news of the Coalition’s win from that perspective, but they also want these other important issues addressed - like acting on the environment and helping the world’s extreme poor.”

Tim Costello, Executive Director of Micah Australia, pointed to the recent Warringah candidate's forum hosted by Micah and Seaforth Baptist, as an example of the importance of listening to the concerns of Christians.

“We had over 300 Christians turn out to hear from local candidates on their vision for a more compassionate and just Australia. Unfortunately, Mr Abbott declined to attend that event,” said Mr Costello.

“Christians are looking for visionary leadership that extends beyond our own backyard,” he said.

Mr Darvas pointed to the fact that this is the first time we’ve had a Prime Minister, elected by the people, who used his maiden speech to talk about his passion for Australian aid.

“I believe Mr Morrison’s words in his maiden speech on aid were genuine, but now is the time to act on those aspirations,” said Mr Darvas.

“In his maiden speech Mr Morrison spoke of going into Parliament to reduce the deaths of 5500 African children every day from hunger, he quoted Bono, Archbishop

Desmond Tutu and Make Poverty History. He thanked John Howard for a small increase in overseas aid. Now with the Coalition well placed to deliver a majority government, there is surely no need to continue the reduction on aid spending, especially when our own region so desperately needs stability.”

“We know that Christians are among our society’s most generous donors. A disproportionate amount of Australia’s overseas giving comes from Christian aid agencies. This is reflected in the generosity of churches just like the one Mr Morrison attends, who are often involved in extensive humanitarian work overseas.”

“Now congregations like these will rightly expect more from our PM when it comes to our own nations’ generosity.”

“We look forward to engaging Mr Morrison, and all members of Parliament over the next three years.”

“Micah will continue to be an advocate for the world’s poor, vulnerable and oppressed with the hope that we will see decisive action from a leader who knows that we are indeed ‘blessed to be a blessing’.”

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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.

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