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Australian youth take charge on eradicating global poverty

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Generation Y is often charged with being overly self-interested and disengaged from political processes; however, Oaktree’s End Poverty campaign aims to provide definitive proof to the contrary.

Oaktree, Australia’s largest youth-led anti-poverty organisation, is leading a movement to end extreme poverty and is engaging thousands of young Australians with their cause in the process.

Next week, as part of the End Poverty campaign in the lead-Up to the G20 conference in Brisbane this November, hundreds of volunteers between the ages of 16-26 will roadtrip to Canberra to bring attention to the issue of extreme poverty.

Once in the nation’s capital, these volunteers have meetings scheduled with 103 federal MPs to discuss the vital policy changes that the campaign hopes to enact.

The End Poverty campaign is advocating for both a significant increase to Australia’s foreign aid budget, and for the Abbott government to push for global corporate tax reform when we host the G20 conference later this year.

Fiona Canny, head of Campaigns for Oaktree, says the roadtrip is about “deep and meaningful community engagement in areas we would not otherwise be able to reach. It’s about increasing the number of people who believe that we can end extreme poverty.”

Departing on 28 September from [insert departure point], the [insert number here] volunteers will be travelling through [place], [place], and [place] among numerous other locations before reaching their final destination of Canberra.

Michelle Clifford, one of the Roadtrip participants, says “I’m excited about the Roadtrip because being 16 I don’t get to vote … This is my chance to have my opinion heard.”

The Roadtrip and the End Poverty campaign as a whole provides a means through which the youth of Australia can direct their energy to an achievable goal.

It is initiatives like the Peoples’ Climate March and the End Poverty Roadtrip that help to dispel the negative portrayals of generation Y and show how young people seek to take charge on issues of global importance.

The Peoples’ Climate March held over the weekend in major cities around the world attracted hundreds of thousands of protesters pushing for global action on climate change.

The march was supported by the Australian Youth Climate Coalition in Australia and attracted significant numbers of young people globally.

The youth of Australia aren’t disinterested in global issues, and next week’s initiative proves that in the right circumstances they can actually be the most engaged members of the community.

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