

HOW TO RUN A 'SURVIVE PAST FIVE' 5TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Micah Challenge wants to see a 'Survive Past Five' 5th Birthday Party held in every electorate before the 2010 Federal Election. This will show our leaders that communities around Australia want our Government to meet our commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to halve global poverty by 2015.

A 5th Birthday Party is a great way to engage your church, school or wider community, your local media, and your Member of Parliament to encourage our Government to do its fair share towards making sure that every child possible can survive to their 5th Birthday – and beyond. It's an opportunity to celebrate the progress that has been made to reduce poverty, while also highlighting the urgent need to do more.

Millennium Development Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

- MDG 4 aims to cut infant and child deaths by two-thirds by 2015 from 1990 levels. In the Asia-Pacific region 18 of 29 developing countries are not on track to achieve this target.
- In 2008, 9.2 million children died before their 5th Birthday, most from easily preventable causes. 22% of these children died from diarrhoea and 21% from pneumonia.

What Australia needs to do

Spending on health in the aid budget should increase to \$1.18 billion by the 2011-2012 financial year.

- This will represent \$1 in every four aid dollars based on government promises to increase the aid budget towards 0.5% of Gross National Income by 2015.
- This would save the lives of an estimated 240,000 children and 26,000 mothers in our immediate region each year.

Find more stories and facts about MDG4: Reduce Child Mortality on the Micah Challenge website, or watch the "Child and Maternal Health" clip on [The World We Want to See DVD](#).

How to Run a 'Survive Past Five' 5th Birthday Party

Here are some ideas on how to run a party, but you might come up with more creative ideas – the sky is the limit!

1. Plan early

- Register your 5th birthday on the map of Australia on the Micah Challenge website.
- Get a team together to organise the party and brainstorm ideas together.
- Talk to your church leaders/school teachers to get their support for the event.
- Plan a date for your 5th Birthday Party well in advance to fit in with your church/school calendar and your MP's schedule. Do your best to make it happen before the 2010 Federal Election (it is likely to be anytime after mid-2010)
- Contact your MP to ask them to be involved and find a date when they are available.
- Tell your church, school or community about the party early. Download a sample 5th Birthday Party invitation from the Micah Challenge website
- OPTIONAL EXTRA: Use the Micah Challenge [40 Day Fast](#) with your whole church or small groups to learn, reflect and act on poverty in the lead up to the 5th Birthday Party. The 5th Birthday Party could be a way of breaking the fast. Download the resources from the Micah Challenge website

2. Get creative!

Brainstorm creative ideas about how your party can make the most impact on your community and your MP. Watch the "Take Action in Your Community" clip on [The World We Want to See DVD](#) to see how other groups have taken creative action to speak up. Here are some ideas to think about:

- Hold a cake baking/cake decorating competition. Advertise the competition at your church, your youth group – or go wider – get local schools, mothers' groups and other community groups involved too. Possible criteria for the winning cake could be the cake using the most fair trade ingredients or low food miles, or the cake that communicates something about MDG 4: Reduce Child Mortality.
- Organise children's party activities that educate people about MDG 4 and include your MP – for example, play "Pin the baby on the mother" to reunite children with their mothers. Find other ideas for games for all ages on the Micah Challenge website.
- Give out lolly bags at the end of the party with five facts about child health in them.
- Have a treasure hunt, where people have to find certain objects that teach them something about poverty



- Blow up balloons to decorate the room and write facts on them about MDG 4 and campaign achievements. Ask people to find these and read them out to celebrate progress to reducing poverty so far. Order special balloons from info@micahchallenge.org.au. Have candles for people to put on the cake to light as a prayer for children around the world.
- For other ideas, visit the Micah Challenge website.



3. Involve your MP

- Find out who the Federal MP is who represents the area your church/school/group is located in at www.aec.gov.au, and read about their background at www.aph.gov.au.
- Email and then phone your MP to invite them to come to your 5th Birthday Party well in advance. You may need to negotiate the date of your party to fit your MP's schedule.
- Ask your MP to speak at the event about why they care about global poverty and where their Party stands on the issue. You may like to give people the chance to ask your politician some questions. See the [How to Run a MDG Forum](#) resource for ideas.
- Give your MP some symbolic things to do at the party, e.g. lighting five candles on the cake or reading out five facts about child health. Download a MDG 4 Factsheet from the Micah Challenge website.
- Ask your MP to make a speech in Parliament about MDG 4 and to mention your 5th Birthday Party. Download speech notes from the Micah Challenge website.



4. Show your MP how many people care

Present signed 5th Birthday Cards to your MP at the party to show support to reduce the number of deaths of children under five who die from preventable causes. The more signatures from your electorate your MP receives about this, the easier it will be for them to speak up in Parliament in support of the campaign.

- Order [5th Birthday cards](#) from info@micahchallenge.org.au.
- Or make your own [5th Birthday cards](#) at the party, using the text provided on the Micah Challenge website, and have a card decorating table with craft materials or coloured pencils/textas.
- Ask community groups, churches, schools, doctors' surgeries etc in your electorate to get on board with asking people to sign cards.
- Ask your MP to deliver your cards in person to Stephen Smith, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

5. Spread the word

- Write an article for your local paper or denominational publication/website. Use the [How to Contact Your Local Media](#) resource in this kit. You can also find an easy to use sample article and a weblink to find your local newspaper(s) on the Micah Challenge website.
- Make sure you take lots of photos of your event! Try to include your MP, party-goers and something visually interesting in your photo.
- Ask your MP to provide a quote you can use in your article.
- Send a photo of your event to info@micahchallenge.org.au to be part of a collage of 5th Birthday Party photos that will be presented to Stephen Smith, the Foreign Minister.

6. And a little child will lead them....

Make sure you include children (and people of all ages) where possible in the event. Give them a chance to present something to the MP or read out prayers or facts. Make sure they feel valued and an important part of the event.

7. After the party

- Send your MP an email to thank them and follow up on anything you asked them to do!
- Tell us how your party went so we can encourage others with your story. Email info@micahchallenge.org.au.
- Send a photo and article of your event to your local paper and to info@micahchallenge.org.au.