

1. PLEASE HANDWRITE YOUR LETTER
 2. TO FIND CANDIDATE CONTACT DETAILS, VISIT:
<http://www.aec.gov.au/election/who-are-the-candidates.htm>
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Dear **[Insert name of MP/ Candidate]**,

I'm writing to ask you to remember the global poor this election.

[Add your personal thoughts here]

I understand the importance of campaign issues such as the economy and immigration. However, we live in a world where 15 children die every minute from preventable causes. This is unacceptable. Any prospective Australian government must have a clear policy about how Australia will do its fair share in responding to the poverty challenge.

Since the year 2000 we have seen an improved response to combating global poverty. We now have a greater focus on the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction in our aid spending. We also have bi-partisan commitment to reaching the target of 0.5% of GNI going to international development by 2015/16.

While these gains are positive, I believe we can and must do more. I am deeply disappointed that Australia is yet to make a commitment to the international aid target of 0.7% GNI. I am also concerned that our spending on health has decreased this year despite the fact that the Millennium Development Goals related to health are furthest off track.

With the lowest debt levels of all developed nations, Australia is arguably best placed to reach the 0.7% target, yet our current giving at 0.33% GNI sees us ranking only 16th out of 22 rich nations. Micah Challenge conservatively estimates that moving from 0.5% to 0.7% would save the lives of 220,000 people each year and provide improved education, sanitation and water to millions more. I also believe that Australia can do more to ensure our aid is spent effectively by appointing a Minister for International Development to help ensure our aid money has the greatest possible benefit for the poor.

Will your party:

- Make a timetabled commitment to increasing aid levels to 0.7% of GNI before the Federal election?
- Commit to increasing spending on health within the aid budget to our fair share of \$1200m by 2012/13?
- Appoint a Minister for International Development?

Please remember the poor this election and show leadership on this issue. This is not an issue of dollars and cents. This is an issue of life and death.

Sincerely,

[Sign your letter and print your name, address and postcode]