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## OVERSEAS AID

Increase aid to 0.7% GDP

Target aid at poverty

Non-commercial aid

Australia has a responsibility to contribute to both long term development aimed at eliminating global

## PRINCIPLES

The Australian Greens believe that:

1. Australia has a responsibility to contribute to both long term development aimed at self-reliance and reducing climate change vulnerability in developing nations, and people become vulnerable and suffer because of natural disasters or social conflict.
2. Australia has an obligation, particularly as a wealthy country, to encourage positive economic and environmental conditions for citizens of developing nations.
3. All aid programs should be consistent with a human rights-based approach to development, environmentally sustainable, should promote local participation and gender equality and social rights of the recipient communities.
4. Aid effectiveness requires development strategies and programs that are designed to reduce poverty.
5. The human rights and agency of women should be placed at the centre of Australian aid.
6. Long-term aid should be directed towards enhancing self-reliance in developing nations.
7. Aid should contribute to a world free from structural inequalities, where people can trade and debt no longer exploit peoples, but instead promote environmental and economic development.
8. Emergency relief to save lives and alleviate suffering of vulnerable people during natural disasters should be provided:
  - a. with impartiality and based solely on need;
  - b. with neutrality, not favouring either side in any armed conflict;
  - c. independent from the political, economic or military objectives of the Australian Government.

- c. independent from the political, economic, or military objectives of the donor;
- d. by civilians, except in relation to situations involving natural disasters where such situations are unlikely to arise; and
- e. with full implementation of international humanitarian law, refugee law and international human rights law.

9. Aid programs should not be used to influence the democratic preferences of any

## AIMS

The Australian Greens want:

1. A focus in Australia's aid program on working with developing countries to realise their economic and social development.
2. An increase in the level of Australian overseas aid to a minimum of 0.7% of GNI per capita, in line with the United Nations, with provision for additional increases in the event of natural disasters and humanitarian interventions.
3. Transparency and accountability in the purpose and impact of all aid programs, to ensure that the communities and countries the programs are designed to benefit. This includes ensuring that the processes serve the interests of those communities.
4. A non-commercial aid program. Aid must not be used as a means of subsidising commercial activities.
5. Long-term aid programs that combat climate change as an integral part of their purpose.
6. Australia to play a lead role in securing global contributions to UN and other international organisations, and logistical support to deal with humanitarian emergencies wherever they occur.
7. The establishment of AusAID as an independent department with its own cabinet portfolio, separate from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
8. Environmental, social and gender impact statements for all aid programs.
9. International aspects of Australian policies on trade, economic and social issues to be consistent with, and supportive of, global poverty alleviation goals.
10. The Australian government to recognise and support the valuable role of non-governmental organisations in the critical analysis and scrutiny of the aid program.
11. Selection of implementing agencies for the aid program based on their development effectiveness and cost effectiveness.
12. An increased funding focus on strengthening health systems to address sexual and reproductive health and consequences of HIV-AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases.
13. Targeted assistance, particularly in the Asia Pacific, for climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness in their own countries and maintain cultural cohesion.
14. Australian government agencies organised, trained and resourced to carry out effective partnerships with Australian non-government organisations in building their emergency response capacity.
15. Collaboration with developing countries in disaster prone areas to reduce their vulnerability and enhancing the capacity of both governments and local non-government organisations.

16. The inclusion of 'good governance' activities within the aid program which promote which serve the interests of those in poverty.
17. The removal of any discrimination against small non-government organisations in processes.

**POLICY CATEGORY:**

TACKLING POVERTY

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