

**3 May 2016  
MEDIA RELEASE**



## **Australian aid cuts make us the least generous we've ever been**

The Micah Australia coalition of churches and Christian agencies is deeply disappointed at the Government's decision to proceed with the scheduled \$224 million aid cut in the 2016-2017 Federal Budget.

"These cuts will take aid to its lowest level and will make our nation the least generous we've ever been. Coming on top of more than \$11 billion in cuts to aid since coming to office, this is the fourth time the Government has targeted Australian aid for cuts," said Ben Thurley, National Coordinator of Micah Australia.

As a result of the Treasurer's latest Budget delivered tonight, Australia will give just 0.23% of overseas aid as a share of national income – the lowest level ever recorded in Australia's history.

"While many other countries are increasing their international assistance towards the fight against poverty, Australia is stepping back its role in building a fairer world," said Mr Thurley.

"The reality is that it's people and communities struggling against poverty in our region and other parts of the world who will bear the consequences of these cuts."

According to Mr Thurley, the repeated cuts made to Australian aid damage and undermine the effectiveness of programs which have a direct impact on the lives, livelihoods, security and opportunity of many of our region's poorest and most vulnerable people and communities, including women and girls and people with disability.

"The Micah Australia coalition, alongside our supporters, remains determined to reverse these damaging cuts. We call on all political parties to commit to restoring Australia's aid program – which is one critical way that we work with others to tackle poverty," said Mr Thurley.

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**To organise an interview with Ben Thurley, contact Angela Owen on 0422 985 288.**

*Micah Australia is a coalition of churches and Christian organisations raising a powerful voice for justice and a world free from poverty.*

