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[Australians still believe aid budget is almost 14 times more than what it is](#)

Micah Australia today said Lowy Institute polling released this week shows Australians are comfortable with and actually expect, a much higher aid budget.

The 2018 Lowy Institute Poll found that Australians on average think that 14% of the budget is spent on aid, while they say 10% should be spent on aid.

Australia's aid budget is approximately 0.8% of the federal budget.

"This shows that, according to every day Australians, at it's current level of less than one percent of our national budget, Australian aid spending is nowhere near enough", said Campaign Director Matt Darvas.

"In many way Australians are way ahead of our government on this issue. They believe we are giving more than we are, and in fact they want us to."

Earlier this year Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Concetta Fierravanti-Wells said there wasn't public support for an increase in aid, citing research that showed about 80 per cent of Australians believe that we should not be spending more on foreign aid.

"What the Minister and other leaders always fail to acknowledge when they cite research like this, is that Australians already think we spend way more on aid than what we do. And, if given the opportunity to express what we should spend on aid, the response is around 10 per cent."

"Often the argument used by Australians against foreign aid spending is that 'we should look after our own first'."

"If you're one of the Aussies that thinks 20 per cent of our budget is going to aid overseas, it makes sense you feel that we are not doing enough in our own back yard. But aid spending is nowhere near that"

"99 per cent of our budget is spent at home with less than one per cent going to aid overseas. It's a tiny sliver, when most people believe it's a huge piece of the pie."

"This isn't the only research that has found Australians expect and are comfortable with a higher aid budget either."

An Essential media poll done for ChildFund in May this year found a majority of support for aid with 52 per cent agreeing that has "an obligation" to continue to provide aid to poorer nations and 53 believe cutting foreign aid would be bad for relations with other nations.

"We know there is community support for aid, and a growing understanding of the importance of aid in our region, not just for humanitarian purposes, but for Australia to maintain our role and strength in the region."

"The bottom line is Australians do believe in aid, and are happy for us to be giving almost 10 times as much as what we are. We need our government to take leadership on this issue."

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Micah Australia is a coalition of Australia's largest Christian non-government organisations raising a powerful voice for justice and a world free from poverty.

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