FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: [Insert date of issue]

**LOCAL ADVOCATE TAKES CONCERN FOR WORLD’S POOR TO CANBERRA**

[or insert your own punchy title here!]

[INSERT YOUR NAME], [insert your profession e.g teacher/mother of two] from [insert your suburb, church or other group you represent] joined over two hundred Australians from across the country in Parliament House this week to share their concern for the world’s poor, oppressed, and displaced.

Led by Tim Costello, 80 face-to-face meetings with the nation’s politicians were held as a part of the *Voices for Justice* Conference, hosted by Micah Australia.

Only days away from the Mid-Year Economic Fiscal Outlook and with an election looming, the group were keen to put the needs of the world’s most vulnerable citizens on the agenda of elected leaders and share their vision for Australia being a good global neighbour.

“Many people aren’t aware that significant progress has been made in the past 25 years towards tackling global poverty,” said [insert your name].

“Child Mortality has fallen from 12.6 million per year to 5.4 million per year, extreme poverty has fallen by over three-quarters and 2 billion people have gained access to safe water,” [he/she said].

“Yet, in a world where 5.4 million children still die each year before their fifth birthday, 815 million people go to sleep hungry and unprecedented 68.5 million people are displaced, Australia can and should do more.”

“I went to Canberra because I am one of many concerned citizens who want Australia to be known as a generous and compassionate country which is committed to doing its fair share towards ensuring justice for the world’s poorest people.” [OR INSERT OWN “WHY” QUOTE HERE]

In the lead up to the next federal election, participants called on all major parties to step up in caring for the most vulnerable citizens of the world, by advocating for Australia to return to the top half of rich country aid donors by the end of the next parliamentary term.

With aid currently at 0.23% GNI, its lowest ever level, this would mean rebuilding the aid program to 0.33% of GNI in the next 6 years.

[Insert your name] had a private meeting with Local Member for [insert electorate], [insert name of your MP] in Canberra to discuss ways Australia can tackle the most pressing global justice issues of our time: extreme poverty, the refugee crisis and modern slavery.

“It was a privilege to represent the electorate of [insert your electorate] and speak out for poorest and vulnerable in our world whose voices are normally not heard,” said [insert your name].

Tim Costello said the fact that there were representatives from every major church denomination at the Voices for Justice conference, showed the issue of global justice is one Christians are significantly invested in.

“Christian aid agencies in Australia collect $621 million in charitable donations each year. The supporters of Micah don’t just call for Government action, they act themselves.”

“Social justice is at the heart of our mission as the Church, and we believe at the core of who we are as Australians.”

*For more information or to request an interview or photo: Contact [insert your name, profession, email and phone number.]*

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.

[**www.micahaustralia.org**](http://www.micahaustralia.org/)