



Australian Disability + Development Consortium

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31 January 2019

Budget Policy Division
Department of the Treasury
Langton Crescent
Parkes ACT 2600
Email: prebudgetsubs@treasury.gov.au

Dear Treasurer,

Re: Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC) 2019-20 Pre-Budget Submission

The Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC) is an Australian-based community of over 600 individuals and organisations working across Australia, the Asia Pacific and globally on disability and development issues. The Australian Government is a global leader in the promotion of the rights of people with disabilities and their inclusion in all international development efforts. As such, we take this opportunity to emphasise the importance of maintaining Australia's aid budget overall, and funding towards disability inclusive development work in particular.

As recognised in the Australian Government's own foreign policy white paper, Australian aid saves lives, strengthens communities and promotes stability in our region. Scaling up the aid program budget will enhance the efforts to alleviate poverty and empower the most vulnerable. Women, men and children with disabilities are amongst the most marginalized, the poorest and most at-risk in communities and societies throughout developing countries. Australia's ground-breaking disability inclusive development work has made huge progress in overcoming the cycle of poverty and disability in developing countries. Great initial momentum has been established on disability in Australia's aid program yet there is still much more to do.

In support of the submission of CBM Australia, a founding member of ADDC, we support their proposal to strengthen Australia's foreign policy, affirm a national legacy of leadership in disability-inclusive development, and restore transparency to the Australian aid program. We recommend the Australian Government should:

1. Overall aid budget

- 1.1. Scale up its aid program to approximately 0.295% GNI by 2021-22, in order to return Australia to the top half of rich country aid donors by the end of the next parliamentary term.
- 1.2. Increase funding allocated to the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) by \$30 million in the 2019-20 financial year.

2. Disability-inclusive development

- 2.1. Increase the existing \$12.9 million annual investment in disability specific funding by \$1 million in the 2019-20 financial year.
- 2.2. Ensure the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has sufficient core departmental budget for staff and associated support costs to enable the effective implementation,

monitoring and advocacy supporting current and subsequent *Development for All* strategies, in Canberra and at Post.

- 2.3. Over the forward estimates, commit dedicated funds to support the implementation of the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and mobilise other donors to contribute resources for this purpose.

3. Budget monitoring and reporting

- 3.1. Strengthen visibility of investments and performance in disability-inclusive development by reinstating reporting on disability to the *Australian Aid Budget Summary* and *Performance of Australian Aid* documents.
- 3.2. Introduce and report against an ambitious target to accelerate disability inclusion efforts in all areas of aid investment.

For further detail see the pre-budget submission of CBM Australia.

ADDC thanks the Treasury for the opportunity to submit our recommendations for the 2019-20 Federal Budget. If you would like any further information or like to discuss our recommendations please contact me via email kclarke@addc.org.au or via phone on 03 8843 4519.

Yours sincerely,

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