

# Lobbyists claim win with health funds plan



Michele Kaye, Nicole Cruel, Louise Lorimer, Melissa Usher and Diana Shanks (back row) and Lili Koch and Maree Nutt are members of the lobby group Results Australia.

Picture: SIMON DEAN -FP381802

## Danielle Nicastrì

A LOBBY group of mostly local home-makers have credited themselves with getting an international aid effort underway.

Results Australia members have been urging MPs to cancel \$75 million in Indonesia's debt to Australia in return for increased spending against tuberculosis, announced in last year's federal budget.

Manager of the northern beaches group, Lili Koch, said the debt-to-health swap was one of their successes.

"It's quite an odd feeling when you're a little person at the grassroots level trying to do something and you're not sure if you're effective, then suddenly there's a result and you have achieved all you hoped for, which is an amazing feeling," she said.

"I have a background in financial planning and I didn't know how to present a cause and never imagined I could write a letter to an MP and get a response."

National manager Maree Nutt, based on the northern beaches, said the group's recent federal parliament visit called for more support for the or-

ganisation, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

"They are three of the largest killers in developing countries and are very spreadable, but also totally preventable and treatable," she said.

"Australia is surrounded by half of the top 20 countries who have the highest tuberculosis rates in our region and it's a very significant problem we need to address."

Each month around eight women from all over the peninsula meet at Mona Vale library to address different problems in the developing world, with last month's focus on International Tuberculosis Day on March 24.

Recently, the group organised a forum on poverty at the Bayview Golf Club with Deputy Federal Opposition Leader Julie Bishop, Mackellar Federal Liberal MP Bronwyn Bishop and humanitarian speakers, such as Hugh Evans.

■ For those interested in joining or for more information, call Lili Koch on 9948 8892 or visit [www.results.org.au](http://www.results.org.au).