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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESULTS welcomes Aid announcements

Grassroots anti-poverty organisation, RESULTS has welcomed the Coalition's announcement of elevating AusAID – Australia's government agency responsible for managing the country's overseas aid program - into an independent government department with its own Minister for International Development if it wins on August 21.

RESULTS has urged the Australian Labor Party to match this commitment.

The development advocacy organisation has also noted that this reflected the community's sentiment on the issue of foreign aid.

"We applaud the Coalition's initiative in raising the status of International Development Assistance to mirror the enormous concern regarding this issue amongst ordinary Australians," said RESULTS' National Manager, Maree Nutt.

Furthermore, the ALP's undertaking to honour their commitment to contribute 0.5 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) towards the International Development Assistance Program by 2015, and to increase overall aid to a further 0.7 per cent, should economic conditions permit, was also welcomed.

"It is pleasing that both major political parties have identified this as an area for expansion, however, it must be asked why Australia still ranks in the bottom third of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD) member nations for per capita aid spending when it has navigated the GFC with a fraction of the pain felt by other developed nations?" questioned Ms Nutt.

RESULTS also continues to be astounded by the level of support for development spending within the Australian community. Currently, Australians rank second in the OECD for private aid donations and over three quarters of Australians support greater spending in this area.

"Australians want more aid. It's as simple as that," concluded Nutt.

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