

RESULTS International (Australia)

For Immediate Release

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Attention: COS's, Newsrooms, Health Reporters, Foreign Desks, Political reporters.

Tremendous gains in global health will result from Australian generosity at aid conference

Overseas aid advocacy group RESULTS International (Australia) today congratulated the Federal Government on their announcement of a \$200 million contribution over three years to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI Alliance) at the international pledging conference "Saving Children's Lives" in London now underway.

The announcement by Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd in the last few hours means 7.1 million children across the world will receive life saving vaccines, according to RESULTS National Manager Maree Nutt.

"Despite significant progress globally in reducing childhood mortality, nearly two million children die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases. Most of these deaths occur in low-income countries."

"Minister Rudd's announcement on behalf of all Australians will enable the GAVI Alliance to save literally millions of lives. It's that simple."

Over the last decade the GAVI Alliance has attracted and disbursed US\$4 billion in funding for vaccines and immunisation and so helped save the lives of five million children across the developing world from life-threatening diseases like pneumonia and diarrhea.

For the period 2011 to 2015, GAVI is seeking a total of \$US 6.8 billion (\$A 6.5 billion), of which \$US 3.1 billion is already committed. Therefore, GAVI is seeking commitments to new funding of \$US 3.7 billion (\$A 3.6 billion) at the London conference now underway.

"With these funds it is estimated that over the next five years nearly 250 million children will be able to receive immunisation against hepatitis B, yellow fever, pneumococcal disease and rotavirus, and support introduction of vaccines against, cervical cancer, meningitis, rubella and typhoid, resulting in a further four million lives saved," Ms Nutt said.

"Given our strong economic position and our increasing aid program, RESULTS had high hopes of a generous pledge and global leadership from our Government. I am pleased to say that Minister Rudd has delivered"

For further comment please call Maree Nutt of RESULTS International (Australia) on +61 404 808 849.

(Ms. Nutt is currently in London participating in the GAVI Alliance pledging conference)