

**Historic Milestone in Global Health Achieved:  
Australia Delivers at Child Survival Conference**

**SUMMARY:** *Australia demonstrated strong leadership and commitment at the GAVI conference “Saving Children’s Lives”, by contributing a remarkable \$200 million over three years to the GAVI alliance. This is more than a three-fold increase in Australia’s commitment with its contribution increasing from \$20m a year to \$67m a year. This increased funding will mean that 7.1 million children across the world will receive critical vaccines. Appreciation of GAVI’s efficient and effective work in the provision of life saving vaccinations was reaffirmed through a resounding US\$ 4.3 billion in overall pledges, exceeding the initial target of \$3.7 billion for the period 2011 to 2015. This month we will write to Members of Parliament, thanking them for their outstanding commitment towards child immunisation and requesting them to continue this support.*

*“We come here today because people — in my case Australians — believe it is the right thing to do... Vaccination is a gift that people with little else, with no fixed address, no certain future, can carry with them forever.” Kevin Rudd (Australian Foreign Minister)*

*“Minister Rudd’s announcement on behalf of all Australians will enable the GAVI Alliance to save literally millions of lives. It’s that simple.” (Maree Nutt – RESULTS)*

## BACKGROUND

Each year, nearly two million children die from vaccine-preventable diseases. Pneumonia and diarrhoea account for 40% of these deaths. The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) aims to reduce these deaths significantly by ensuring current vaccines are available to nearly all children, as well as introducing new or little-used vaccines. GAVI’s mission also links in with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce the mortality rate for children under 5 by two thirds between 1990 and 2015.

Responding to a dramatic increase in requests for vaccines and reaching the MDG goal of reducing child mortality, the GAVI Alliance held a high-level pledging conference “Saving Children’s Lives” in London on June 13, 2011. The meeting convened prime ministers, ministers and high-level officials from donor and developing countries, leaders of UN Agencies, CEOs from private companies and senior civil society leaders to make commitments or increase funding to support GAVI’s life-saving work. Maree Nutt of RESULTS International (Australia) attended the conference in London.

**Our Action:** In May 2011 RESULTS members requested the following from their Members of Parliament and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kevin Rudd:

- Australia play a leading role at the conference and increase its contribution to \$250 million (\$50 million per year) over 5 years (an increase from an initial request by RESULTS of \$33m per year)
- Kevin Rudd to attend the conference and affirm Australia’s support towards GAVI’s critical work

## ACHIEVING RESULTS

The results of the conference were astounding with public and private donors showed their tremendous support by committing US\$ 4.3 billion, exceeding the initial target of \$3.7 billion for the period 2011 to 2015. This global health milestone will immunise more than 250 million of the world's poorest children 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. Conference pledges bring GAVI's total available resources for the period 2011 to 2015 to \$ 7.6 billion.

Australia demonstrated strong leadership and answered the people's request by contributing **\$200 million** over three years to the GAVI alliance. This is more than a three-fold increase in Australia's commitment with its contribution increasing from **\$20m a year to \$67m a year**. This increased funding will mean that 7.1 million children across the world will receive life saving vaccines – a truly remarkable and powerful achievement. Australia's strong economic growth and its commitment to increase aid to 0.5% of gross national income by 2015-16 has enabled this huge increase and seen Australia deliver in a substantive manner.

Importantly, this support has been bipartisan with the Hon Teresa Gambaro MP (Shadow Parliamentary Secretary International Development Assistance) also voicing her support “this program is one of the most proven and cost-effective ways to deliver life saving vaccines for the children of the world. Australia has followed the lead of the British Government and Bill Gates who has provided extraordinary leadership in this campaign.”<sup>1</sup>

For more information on Australia's pledge visit: [www.dfat.gov.au/](http://www.dfat.gov.au/)

For Result's media release and more details on the conference visit: [www.results.org.au/australia-pledges-200m-to-save-childrens-lives/](http://www.results.org.au/australia-pledges-200m-to-save-childrens-lives/)

## ACTION:

Write to your Members of Parliament, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Kevin Rudd MP or a letter to your local newspaper, raising the following key points:

- Congratulate and thank the minister for attending the conference and substantively increasing Australia's GAVI contribution to \$200 million over 3 years.
- Listening to the demands of the Australian public and articulating this at GAVI with Australia's lifesaving pledge.

## ABOUT GAVI:

The GAVI Alliance is an innovative public-private international fund aimed at improving health in the world's poorest countries through increased access to vaccines and immunization. GAVI supports countries to improve their procurement of vaccines and national capacity to deliver routine immunization programs. GAVI also works with vaccine manufacturers and suppliers to help bring down the price of childhood vaccines for developing countries.

Since its establishment in 2000, the GAVI Alliance has attracted and disbursed US\$4 billion in funding for vaccines and immunization and is estimated to have saved more than five million lives. In the developing world, more than 288 million children have been immunized against life-threatening diseases such as measles, tetanus, whooping cough and yellow fever—helping them to survive into adulthood.

For more information on GAVI: [www.gavialliance.org/index.php](http://www.gavialliance.org/index.php)

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<sup>1</sup> Media Release, “Saving Millions of Precious Lives”, Office of Hon Teresa Gambaro MP (Shadow Parliamentary Secretary International Development Assistance) June 14, 2011

### Resources Assured for 2011-2015

Proceeds to GAVI in US\$ millions	Pledged by Sep 2010	Pledged Oct-Dec 2010	New Pledges June 2011	Resources now Assured
Australia	52	64	149	264
Brazil			12	12
Canada	158	51	15	225
Denmark	5	4	19	29
European Commission	14	29	15	58
France	366		146	511
Germany			73	73
Ireland		13		13
Italy	481		25	506
Japan			9	9
Luxembourg		6		6
Netherlands	34		175	209
Norway	136	6	677	819
Republic of Korea	1			1
Russia	41			41
South Africa	4			4
Spain	48	3		50
Sweden	8		201	209
United Kingdom	996 + 118 <sup>(3)</sup>		1,335	2,449
United States			450	450 <sup>(1)</sup>
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	341		1,000	1,341 <sup>(2)</sup>
HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed			33	33
"la Caixa" Foundation			6	6
Anglo American plc			3	3
Absolute Return for Kids (ARK)			3	3
<b>Total</b>	2,684 + 118	176	4,345	7,318
Investment Income	80			80
Cash & Investment drawdown	195			195
<b>Assured Resources</b>	2,959 + 118	176	4,345	7,599
	<b>Prior to June 2011: \$3.3 bn</b>		<b>\$4.3 bn</b>	<b>\$7.6 bn</b>

<sup>2</sup> GAVI Pledging Conference Outcome Document, June 2011