

Submission for Australian Budget 2019/20

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission for the 2019-2020 Australian Commonwealth Budget.

I am writing this submission with my father about what we would like in the 2019-20 Federal Budget. We are aware of the many achievements of the Australian aid program and see it as one of the most valuable ways that we as a country can engage with the world and especially with our Pacific neighbours. We want Australia to be known as a generous country and believe that this has great benefits not just for the recipients but for us as well.

Our primary request for the budget is that we increase our ODA each year so that by 2021-22 Australia is giving 0.3% of the Gross National Income. This should form part of a longer term plan to increase aid to 0.7% of GNI.

We would also like to see:

- Australia increase its funding of the UNCHR to \$100 million per annum.
- Increased funding to DFAT to promote the value of the aid program.

We have seen the need of people struggling with poverty. We want Australia to be a more generous neighbour who gives to help people in need. The more Australia gives, the more kids are going to get to go to school, the more families with clean water to drink and the more food and much needed medicine supplies people in need will get.

We also want additional funding for UNCHR so that they have the money to support the hundreds of thousands of people who have had to flee their home because of conflicts in their country. In Syria alone 13.5 million people are in need of the UNCHR's support. The UNCHR will provide a safe place to stay each night. Hopefully, through this work people will be able to stay close to their homes and be able to return once it is safe.

We are aware that the Australian aid program is not well understood and much of the population are unfamiliar with its achievements and benefits. In order to make substantial increases to the aid program, it would be valuable to provide the underlying rationale. We believe more funding for community awareness plays a role. The more people that hear about the need and the hardships that people go through, and also the many wonderful things Australian Aid is doing the more they will give and want the government to give. A good example is through innovative story telling such as the SBS program "The Good Cooks"

Cameron and Ross Culey