

MEDIA RELEASE

AMSA: C'mon Kevin, Let's Go To 0.7

The Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) today urged the Federal Government to fulfill its pledge to contribute 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) to global development.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd will meet with world leaders in New York this week to discuss the Millennium Development Goals, a universally recognised framework that aims to advance global development and health by 2015 through eight key targets.

AMSA President Michael Bonning said that while a strong supporter of the Millennium Development Goals at the time of their adoption, Australia had yet to meet the level of contribution promised.

"If Australia wants to be a leading nation within the Asia Pacific region and the world, we must do better than our current efforts," Mr Bonning said.

In a recent national survey of over 2000 medical students, it was revealed that 85% of medical students believed it was important for Australia to fulfill its Millennium Declaration commitment to contribute 0.7% of its Gross National Income (GNI) to international development.

The current Australian contribution is 0.32% GNI, which the Federal Government has announced is to rise to 0.5% GNI by 2015.

"Although the proposed increase in developmental aid is a move in the right direction, it still remains well below target," Mr Bonning said.

"If Australia is serious about achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Federal Government needs to increase its contribution to meet the commitment made in 2000 without further delay," he said.

Medical students from The University of Sydney have recently launched a campaign entitled "C'mon Kevin, Lets go to 0.7". AMSA and its members are actively involved in numerous global health initiatives within the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

Wednesday 24 September

Media Contact

Carly Fox
AMSA Public Relations Officer

0414 798 627
publicrelations@amsa.org.au

National Office
42 Macquarie St
Barton ACT 2600
P.O. Box 6099
Kingston ACT 2604

phone +612 6270 5435
fax +612 6270 5499
email mail@amsa.org.au
web www.amsa.org.au
Australian Medical Students'
Association Limited
ABN 67 079 544 513