

..... aiding **Developing Nations**

Our Plan

We live in a world where

- 980 million people live on less than \$1 a day
- 72 million children of primary school age are not in school and 57 per cent of these are girls
- An estimated 10.1 million children die before the age of five each year
- Half the population of developing countries lack basic sanitation
- Over half a million women die each year from treatable and preventable complications from pregnancy and childbirth
- The number of people dying from AIDS increased to 2.9m in 2006

Labor brought its aid budget up to \$4.3b for 2010/11 and promises to increase it to .5% of GNI (around \$7b) by 2015/16 however this falls well short of the agreed target of 0.7% of GNI. The Millennium Declaration agreed the MDGs should be achieved in 2015 but this now looks unlikely.

The government did provide \$110m in funding for climate change adaptation but this is a very small contribution to what promises to be a very intensive demand in our region.

- Explicitly adopt the **Millennium Development Goals** as a benchmark for ensuring the aid program is directly focused on the sustainable reduction of poverty
- Increase Australia's ODA by 0.1% of GNI each year until we reach the **0.7% target**
- Conduct biennial reviews of the contribution of Australia's aid program to the MDGs
- Focus development resources intensively on high-priority nations, particularly Timor Leste, with the intent of achieving a more rapid and sustained improvement in economic and social conditions. Aid should include reproductive health, maternal and child health, basic education, water and sanitation, distributed energy, micro-credit schemes, climate change adaptation and food security
- Support further cancellation of developing country debt
- Lobby for the resumption of multi-lateral talks aimed at the further reduction of trade barriers for developing countries