

*Hi Everyone!*

Thanks to all of you who contributed your ideas on Global Poverty.

It was clear from all the ideas we received that this is a topic many of you are passionate about. Some of the most popular ideas were:

- that the Australian Government could increase its contribution to International Aid to 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI)
- that there should be compulsory education in schools around global poverty and the Millennium Development Goals
- that people can help by making more ethical choices in their purchases, for example, by purchasing fair trade coffee or chocolate.

A more comprehensive summary of your ideas is provided below.

This summary, along with all your original posts will be given to the Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education, Childcare and Youth, for consideration.

Your ideas and suggestions will also be provided to the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the Global Poverty Project. The Global Poverty Project aims to engage with individuals on various actions to address extreme poverty and to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The AYF supports the goals of the Global Poverty Project and we would like to encourage you all to keep an eye out as they bring '1.4 Billion Reasons' to communities all around the country. This 90-minute presentation based on leading research clearly articulates the facts about extreme poverty and demonstrates the simple changes everyone can make to be a part of the solution. This presentation will encourage you to take action and become a part of the movement to end extreme poverty. For more information on '1.4 Billion Reasons' and the Global Poverty Project, please visit the website – [www.globalpovertyproject.com](http://www.globalpovertyproject.com).

Cheers  
*The AYF*

## Global Poverty – Summary of Ideas.

*What can be done to reduce global poverty and meet the Millennium Development Goals?*

- The Government could increase its contribution to international aid to 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI).
- Focus on other factors that contribute to Global Poverty, such as the effects of climate change, drought, urbanisation and the use of bio-fuels. If we are committed to alleviating global poverty and empowering developing countries we not only need to increase aid, but also need to take action on reducing carbon emissions.
- Advocate for fair trade policies that give developing countries an opportunity to compete on a level playing field in the market.
- The Millennium Development Goals should be integrated into the curriculum of Australian schools. This knowledge could then be tested and the results annually compiled and monitored by the State Governments to ensure the goal is met.
- Australia should help developing countries by setting up infrastructure to support local industries, thus creating a means in the long run for the countries to help themselves. Consideration must be given to the fact that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to this, as different countries have different climates, produce and cultures.
- The government should look at ways to increase the quality, as well as the quantity, of its aid program – grassroots and community based development aid spent on basic needs and sustainable practices.
- Australian aid organisations should be utilised more in the development process at a political level.
- All young people should leave school with a thorough knowledge of poverty and its causes, as well as the Millennium Development Goals and the role they play as individuals in overcoming the problem.
- When politicians talk about aid it shouldn't sound like they are doing favours, but rather that it is a solid investment for Australia and the rest of the world.
- Whilst it's important that individuals contribute financially to aid organisations, the world's governments (including our own) control FAR more wealth than we do as citizens.
- Australia needs to lobby the G20 nations to make international trade laws more just.
- All government facility vending machines should be filled with fair trade chocolate to protect the rights and incomes of third world farmers.
- So many young people struggle through Uni whilst trying to maintain voluntary commitments for no other reason than their own passion and fulfilment. These people should be recognised in some way – what is the current status regarding the idea whereby young volunteers in the community would receive some sort of relief in their HECS/HELP debt if they committed a certain amount of hours to a charitable cause?

*What can we do as everyday Australians to help put an end to extreme poverty?*

- As consumers, we can make ethical choices in purchases, such as purchasing fair trade coffee and chocolate to empower communities in the developing world.
- There needs to be a better way to invite Australians to understand what poverty is, so that there can be agreement that it is something we all are socially and ethically responsible to help alleviate.
- We can make daily choices that have a fairer impact on the developing world, such as choosing fair trade coffee, chocolate, tea and clothing.
- We can make better environmental choices since those living in poverty are often the worst affected by environmental disasters, and will continue to be affected by global warming.
- Make people realise that we can all work towards eliminating global poverty, and it is not such a radical idea that is too far removed from all of us.
- Young people are in a privileged position where we can create a culture of possibility among our peers, turning the overwhelming attitude of 'no we can't' into 'yes we can' or more importantly, 'yes we will'.
- As individuals, we should stop being ignorant to the world around us and lend a helping hand. Too much responsibility is placed on the government to solve this issue – the government should be putting adequate money into awareness programs so the Australian community can pick up the bill. If every Australian gave up one coffee a week and donated that money to an aid organisation, we would contribute greatly to this cause.
- If we can target advocacy work, through the education of all Australians, to influence government spending, this would have a far greater impact than us each donating a dollar a day.
- As individuals, we can donate and volunteer, but we can also advocate and spread awareness of poverty. We can also be selective in the brands we buy. Buying fair trade or ethical brands allows third world workers the chance to earn and put money into their communities.

- Teenagers and school kids can learn about the issue of poverty in the world and try and find small ways to incrementally help them, and put a message through to government, that the people have the initiative to do something, now you have to do something.
- Schools, youth groups and other organisations could fundraise for global poverty by doing chocolate drives or free dress days on a regular basis (i.e. monthly) as every little bit counts.

*What should the Global Poverty Project include to be effective in communicating the realities of poverty?*

- To start with, the Global Food Crisis is threatening hundreds of millions of people. The Global Poverty Project should explain how things such as increasing population (meaning more mouths to feed), urbanisation (with more people moving to the city, less people are working on farms), the effects of climate change (leaving land non-arable), the increased production of biofuel (resulting in the production of food products to be used for fuel purposes only), and other factors, means we are in this situation of high demand for food with decreasing supply. It should address the issue of low production of food, rather than poor distribution.
- Clearly address the ways that everyday Australians can help overcome global poverty – to get over the idea that it's too big a problem too far removed from them.
- Show that even by talking to your friends about global poverty you can work towards making change. Raising awareness of the little things we can all do to help is a great place to start.