Increase the disability inclusion allocation in overseas development assistance



Provide an additional $14 million per annum for disability inclusion in Australia's aid program to ensure people living with disability are not left behind.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a catastrophic impact on people with disabilities, including those who are blind or vision impaired, who are more susceptible to contracting the virus and experience barriers in accessing information, health services, supports, livelihoods, and social protection measures.

This has widened inequalities, pushed people and their families deeper into poverty and increased the rate of death.

Since 2015, Australia has been a global leader in championing disability-inclusive development as a core component of its aid program and international engagement.

However, in the last two years there has been a drop in funding for disability inclusion in overseas development assistance. This financial year (2021-2022) alone, the budget has dropped 25% from $12.9 million to $9.6 million, at a time when people with disabilities are being pushed to the margins.

Dwindling resources for inclusion in the aid program is excluding people with disability from COVID-19 planning and recovery efforts.

To ensure this isn't a continuing trend, Vision 2020 Australia is calling on the Australian Government to increase the central disability allocation to a minimum of $14 million per annum, representing just 0.35% of Australia's total aid spend.

A proactive focus on disability inclusion will help to break the cycle of poverty and disability. Establishing rehabilitation services, developing referral pathways, training health care practitioners, building accessible infrastructure, raising awareness, and collecting data disaggregated by disability - in consultation with people with disability - helps to ensure that all eye health and vision care programs are accessible to everyone.

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