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**From:** stephen Gallagher [REDACTED]  
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**To:** White Paper  
**Subject:** overseas aid should be increased

It is an unfortunate truth that only 0.23 percent or 23 cents in every \$100 of national income now goes to programs to help eradicate global poverty. The Federal Government in early 2016 announced another quarter billion dollar cut to the aid budget, to follow the one billion dollar cut in the 2015 budget. Australian overseas aid has now been cut by nearly one third since 2012. After adjusting for inflation, overseas aid is now at the lowest level since 2007-08 and is also the lowest proportion of the GNI on record. Health, education and humanitarian aid programs will bear the brunt of the cuts. Increased sickness, child mortality and global poverty will be the outcomes. It is hard to reconcile that as our nation prospers our national identity is becoming more mean spirited and unsympathetic. Restoring overseas aid must be a government priority. It is essential for Australia to commit to a growth path which initially reverses cuts to the aid program in recent years, and increases to a level of approximately \$10 billion per year by the mid 2020s.

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