

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** White Paper Submission : From Elisha McMurray  
**Date:** Saturday, 25 February 2017 12:49:35 AM

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Dear DFAT

My Name is Elisha McMurray and I am making a submission.

Amidst the context of Australia's disheartening and severe budget cuts to AusAid, it is promising to see the Turnbull government turning a corner and encouraging Australians to reflect on the way we engage with international aid and development by commissioning a Foreign Policy White Paper.

The White Paper presents an opportunity for Australia to reflect on our role affecting the eradication of unemployment, poverty and the social and economic exclusion of vulnerable people around the world. Living within a developed nation such as Australia makes it easy for many of us to overlook the growing inequality in wealth and income within and between nations states.

3 billion people around the world live in extreme poverty on less than \$2.50 a day and children make up half of this shocking number. While this may sound like a distant problem, many of the world's poorest people are Australia's next door neighbours, residing in countries closely located to us in the Asia Pacific region. By leading and contributing to the development of our neighbouring countries, Australia ensures we foster a safe and prosperous Asia Pacific Region which we as a country can thrive in for the future.

While I would like to see Australia significantly increase our contribution towards developing countries in the Asia Pacific Region, I would also like to see us be generous with Africa. Some of my family comes from Kenya, so African poverty breaks my heart and makes me cry. I would like to feel proud to say I'm Australian again, I would like us to start contributing our fair share towards international poverty alleviation measures.

I feel strongly about this issue, so I wrote two letters to the editor about the White Paper :(<http://www.maitlandmercury.com.au/story/4480283/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=173>) and (<http://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/4482778/letters-to-the-editor/?cs=80>)

I have also contacted my local MP about our international aid agenda as well.

Can Australia start contributing more funds towards international aid and development again?

Kind regards  
Elisha McMurray

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Sent from my iPhone