

# Media Release

## Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

Monday, 3 April 2017

### **MORE MONEY TO FOREIGN AID SAYS BROAD**

In his last speech in Parliament prior to Budget Week, the Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad, rose to share his thoughts on the importance of foreign aid and at a time when millions of people across the world are in dire need of support, he called for the Government to increase its expenditure on foreign aid.

Mr. Broad said that over the past number of years, Australia's commitment to foreign aid had dropped from \$5 billion per year to \$3.8 billion and he believes this is inconsistent with the current challenges faced by people around the world.

"Currently there are 60 million displaced people on the move globally and 30 million of those are children.

"The decisions we make as a government and the decisions other governments of the world make, are either those which bring about resolution and peace or, they cause the suffering and death of many, many millions of people."

Mr. Broad called for a wider conversation about what Australia's response to world issues was going to be, going forward.

"Previous reductions in our foreign aid spend have allowed us to re-evaluate and improve how we deliver our foreign aid and through that, we've joined programs to support the availability of medicines and to develop fresh ground water projects, for example but now is the time to build on that.

"We need to think about our budget and about what the Australian government's longer term response is going to be."

With people increasingly looking to western countries, like Australia, as they seek refuge from persecution and poverty, Mr. Broad believes it is this country's role, both as a global citizen and a first world nation, to support people in crisis, across the world.

"The world seems to be arming itself. We should break that trend and actually become more compassionate and more responsive."

**ENDS**

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