

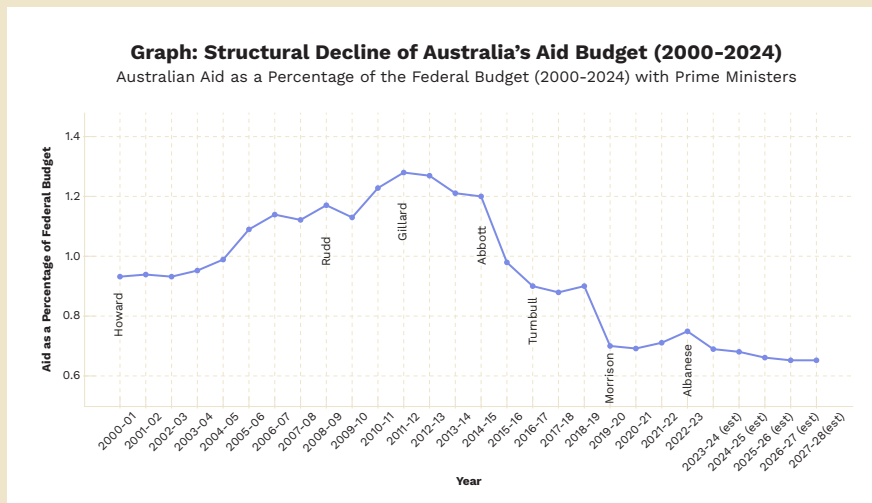
CHURCH TOOLKIT

Thank you for downloading our Church Toolkit to explore how your church can be part of advocating for a more generous and just Australian aid program.

THE WHY:

As people around the world need our help more than ever, **Australia's aid has shrunk to just 0.68% of our federal budget.** This doesn't feel like we are loving our neighbours well.

What we are calling on our Federal MPs for, is a very modest increase in Australian aid **back to at least 1% of the federal budget**, as it was under John Howard, Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard.



Source: ANU Dev Tracker. ODA from DFAT statistical summaries and budget documents, federal budget from Treasury budget document



THE ACTION:

The focus of this toolkit is to support your church to take up an offering of petition postcards, signed and addressed to your local Federal MP.

This action is a direct follow on from the incredible advocacy work started by our **Micah Women's Network Canberra Delegation** in August 2024.

We encourage you to start by [watching this short video of their story.](#)

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

To help your church raise its voice, we have prepared the following resources and suggested plan of action. **There are 3 key elements to this plan:**

1. GATHER

You can do this action in any church setting: a Sunday service, your small group or youth or young adult gathering.

2. DISCUSS

Take the time to watch one of the videos Micah has provided (below) and talk about the 'Why' behind the *Safer World For All* Campaign.

3. SIGN

This is the important part: getting people to sign the postcards so they can be delivered to their Federal MP. See below the guide to do this. We can help you every step of the way!

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE:

- 1. Speak to your Church leadership team and select a date** to take up an offering of petition postcards.
- 2. During your gathering, share the need** by playing from the choice of videos:
 - Micah Women Leaders Canberra Delegation ([Download](#) | [YouTube](#))
 - Australian Aid Explainer Video ([Download](#) | [YouTube](#))
- 3. You might like to preach or watch a sermon** on the Bible's call to advocacy for the poor and marginalised:
 - [Sermon notes](#) | [Sermon slides](#) (includes several slides on the basics on global poverty, graphs explaining Australia's shrinking aid budget, and Postcard Petition instructions)
 - [Video recording of Rev Tim Costello giving this sermon](#)
- 4. Ensure each member of your gathering has a petition postcard** to sign and a pen. You need to order these postcards in advance by [filling in this form here](#).
- 5. Copy and edit this slide** to include the **details of the Federal MPs** your members may live in the electorates of.
- 6. Give members time to sign their petition postcards** during your gathering, and collect them. (e.g. in offering buckets or at your information desk, etc.)
- 7. Finish by praying** over the cards.
- 8. Contact the Micah Australia team** (info@micahaustralia.org) who will work with you on the most strategic next steps for delivering your postcards to your MP.
- 9. After your gathering, please photograph each card individually.** Micah will provide you with a link to a private folder where these can be uploaded.

*This is for Micah to compile a digital database of all completed cards nationally to **track the total number of petitions for sharing with key Ministers** including the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Opposition Leader etc. Any email addresses provided on the cards will only be used by Micah to communicate further advocacy updates, [subject to our normal privacy policy](#).
- 10. Share your experience** and encourage other churches to join! Ideas for this include:
 - Taking a photo from your pulpit of your church members holding up the yellow backs of the petition postcards (they look great!)*
 - Taking a photo or quick video reel of your Pastor holding the pile of signed cards*

We'd love to share these so please tag [@micahaustralia](#) or email them to info@micahaustralia.org



Watch this short video of The Grainery Church in Newcastle [running this activity with their congregation.](#)

GET IN TOUCH:

Doing this action?

[Order your postcards here](#)

Contact us at

info@micahaustralia.org

for support or if you would like to have someone speak at your church (inc. Rev Tim Costello)

