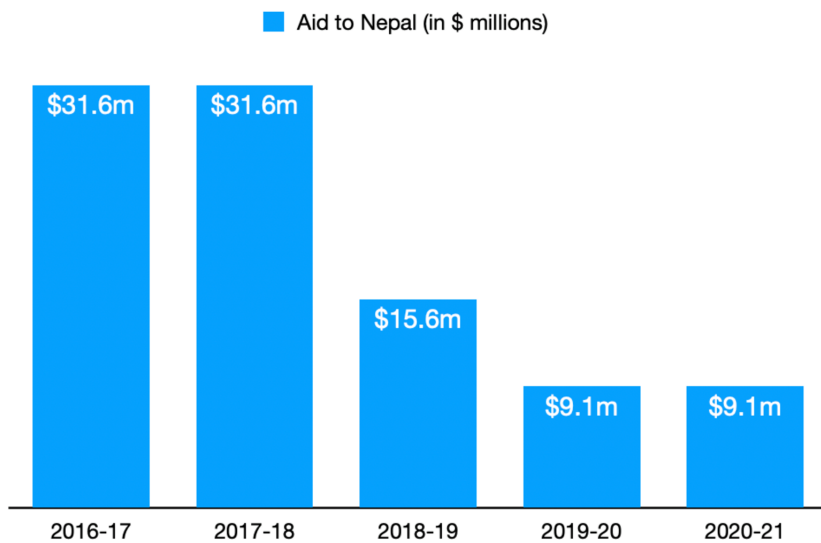


PLEASE RESTORE AUSTRALIA'S BILATERAL AID TO NEPAL

On behalf of the Nepalese community in Australia we ask you to request the Foreign Minister and the Minister for International Development and the Pacific to increase Australia's bilateral aid to Nepal to \$18 million in the upcoming budget.



Under the previous Government, Australia's development assistance to Nepal was cut twice, reducing the program by more than two thirds.

These cuts:

- disrupted or cancelled effective development programs
- came at a time when Nepal's needs and priorities for assistance to support stability, food security and economic development are clear and urgent
- impacted Australia's relations with Nepal – an increasingly important trade partner which is poised at the heart of a vital strategic region, between India and China

What we are asking the Government to do:

- 1) Restore bilateral aid funding to Nepal to at least \$18 million – focusing on food security, improving health systems, economic empowerment and women's rights
- 2) Plan and legislate to increase Australia's Official Development Assistance to the internationally agreed target of 0.7% of Gross National Income by 2030

Why Australia Should Restore Aid to Nepal

- Australia's aid to Nepal has been highly effective in recent years to empower women, expand economic opportunities for the poor, and improve governance and access to education.
- Strong relations between Australia's embassy in Nepal, the Government of Nepal, and development actors in Nepal ensure that aid will be utilised effectively to address development challenges.
- Nepal is a poor country and one of the nations most vulnerable to disasters and climate change related extreme weather events. Australia's development cooperation can help communities better prepare for and respond to these events.
- Nepalis are the fastest growing migrant group in Australia, with a vital interest in development cooperation between our two nations.
- We are pleased that the Australian Government is restoring its aid budget after years of harmful cuts. Increased support for Nepal will improve human development outcomes and Australia's influence in the wider Indo-Pacific region.

What You Can Do

- 1) Please speak or write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for International Development and the Pacific, asking them to increase bilateral aid to Nepal to at least \$18 million in the upcoming budget
- 2) Share your support for Nepal in the Party Room and in the Parliament
- 3) Join the Parliamentary Friends of Nepal group