

14 December 2017

The Honourable Julie Bishop MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

Re: Australia's contribution to the replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

We the undersigned international development and education agencies, write to request that Australia commits to increased support for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) at the GPE Financing Conference held in Dakar, Senegal and co-hosted by France on 2 February 2018.

As you know, the GPE is the only global fund dedicated solely to strengthening education systems in the world's poorest countries. GPE brings together national governments, donor countries, multilateral agencies, international organisations, foundations, the private sector and civil society to allocate technical and financial resources where they are needed most.

With the next GPE replenishment conference set for 2 February 2018, this is the time for the existing and new supporters of the GPE to invest in building on the achievements of the GPE so far. The financial goal for the replenishment is to raise \$US 3.1 billion in donor government contributions to the GPE over 2018 to 2020, with complementary increases in domestic financing by developing country governments and contributions by foundations and the private sector. The International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity, a collection of global leaders convened to remedy the education financing crisis, has called for support to the Global Partnership for Education to increase to US\$2 billion per year by 2020 and US\$4 billion per year by 2030.

A successful replenishment to support GPE's work over the 2018-2020 period will see:

- GPE assistance extended to 89 countries and 870 million children and youth.
- 19 million more children completing primary school, including 9.4 million girls and 10.8 million children in conflict-affected and fragile states.
- 6.6 million more children completing lower secondary school, including 3.9 million girls and 3.9 million children in conflict-affected and fragile states.
- 1.7 million teachers trained, 23,800 classrooms built, and 204 million textbooks distributed.

We commend Australia for its generous contribution to GPE which to date totals USD \$398 million or 8.3% of donor funding received since 2003¹. This support is helping to make a significant contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4 to 'ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.'

In 2011, Australia pledged \$270 million to the GPE first replenishment, followed by a further \$140 million in 2014. We are requesting that Australia continue its commitment to the GPE by pledging \$200 million to the replenishment in 2018. Such a commitment will allow GPE to achieve the goals for the replenishment set out above.

¹ <http://www.globalpartnership.org/about-us/donor/australia>

Education is a universal human right central to achieving individual and collective well-being, economic growth, and prosperity. Australia has been a champion in promoting access to education, particularly for women and girls.

We look forward to receiving your positive response to our request. Your response can be directed to correspondence coordinator, Ms Maree Nutt, CEO, RESULTS International Australia
Maree.nutt@results.org.au

Yours sincerely,

The undersigned



Maree Nutt
Chief Executive Officer
RESULTS International Australia



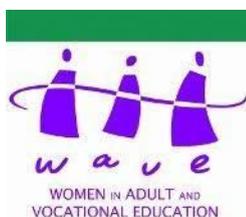
Ian Wishart
Chief Executive Officer
Plan International Australia



Paul Ronalds
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Linda Simon
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Jenny Macaffer
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Marc Purcell
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Council for International
Development



Sarah Meredith
Country Director - Australia
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Claire Rogers
Chief Executive Officer
World Vision Australia



Nigel Spence
Chief Executive Officer
ChildFund Australia



Professor Bruce Wilson
Director
European Union Centre at RMIT

campaign for *Australian Aid*

Tony Milne
Campaign Director
Campaign for Australian Aid