



AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION PRETORIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 11 June 2010

Australia provides funding for Childline in South Africa

The Australian Minister for Early Childhood Education, Child Care and Youth and Minister for Sport, Ms Kate Ellis MP, will tomorrow formally hand over Australian Government funding of 189,000 Rand (approximately A\$28,500) to Childline South Africa – Kwa Zulu Natal branch, a non-profit organisation with over twenty years experience working in the child protection field in South Africa.

Childline South Africa aims to create a culture of children's rights in South Africa and carries out its work through a variety of training and education programs, the provision of support services and therapy directly to children, including via a Children's Crisis helpline, as well as lobbying, analysis and advocacy.

The funding will provide Childline Kwa Zulu Natal with the resources to train and formally accredit thirty community health care workers over the next year. The community health workers will work in communities across the province to reduce the vulnerability of children to abuse, as well as the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Minister Ellis said "The Australian Government is proud to support Childline South Africa's efforts to address the distressingly high incidences of child abuse and HIV/AIDS prevalence amongst children in the Kwa Zulu Natal province."

The funding is provided through the Australian High Commission's Direct Aid Program, which is a small grants scheme designed to assist organisations working at a community level.

Since 2000, the Australian Government has provided around A\$5.5 million to support 110 projects run by South African NGOs working with victims of domestic violence, abuse and neglect, including through the Addressing Gender-Based Violence Fund, the AusAID Regional Small Activities Scheme and the Direct Aid Program.

Media are invited to attend an afternoon tea at Childline South Africa

Event details

3.00pm on Saturday 12 June, 2010

Childline South Africa - Kwa Zulu Natal office

123 Percy Osborn Road, Morningside, Durban

Please RSVP to Nomphelo Fundani on +27 12 423 6187 or nomphelo.fundani@dfat.gov.au

The Australian Government is expanding its development assistance programs in Africa - in 2009-2010, Australia made a 23 per cent increase in its allocation to Africa programs, which followed a 40 per cent increase in 2008-2009.

Australia wants to draw on our experience and expertise to make a unique and positive contribution to Africa's development, principally in the areas of agriculture and food security, maternal and child health, water and sanitation, and human resource capacity building through the Australia Awards program.

The Australian Government is committed to increasing its aid budget overall and aims to deliver assistance equal to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income by 2015-16.

For further information, please contact Public Affairs Officer, Mr William Blomfield on +27 83 409 3619 or william.blomfield@dfat.gov.au.