

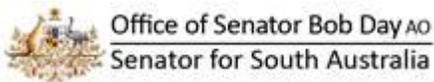
Family First policy responses to your ten questions:

1. Family First believes the primary purpose of Australia's international aid program is to provide policies that alleviate poverty and provide people with opportunities to develop skills that will enable them to provide for themselves on a sustainable basis.
2. Australia's role in the Asia-Pacific region is to contribute to peace and stability by fostering close trade relations with our neighbours. International trade has been shown to be the most effective tool that nations can use to break-down hostilities and build peaceful relationships. Family First also places strong emphasis on generous natural disaster relief for our Indo-Pacific neighbours. Additionally, Family First supports the placement of Australian Defence Forces in neighbouring countries (by invitation from the relevant national government) to help local police forces maintain law and order.
3. Australia must set a target of committing 0.7% of its Gross National Income (GNI) to foreign aid. This is more than double the 2015 spending level. We do not support further cuts to aid spending and have lobbied the government before budgets to refrain from doing so. Family First Senator Bob Day articulated how a nation can budget for a small percentage first when advocating his 'campaign for 1%' (based on a former GDP, that is, non-GNI metric of foreign aid).
4. Family First supports NGOs who are signatories to the Australian Council of International Development's (ACFID) Code of Conduct will ensure greater industry trust, and transparency and accountability of stakeholder funds. Family First also supports emerging financial institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
5. Family First's priority is to ensure Australian aid goes to the nations and causes that will lift the most people out of poverty.
6. The global warming movement fails to acknowledge that (a) supplying affordable energy to people who do not yet have it saves lives and lifts people out of poverty, and (b) CO2 is helping the world crop yields, alleviating hunger, and (c) technology is rapidly developing that will enable renewable energy to compete with existing energy modes without massive government subsidies or mandated targets to accelerate to that end. Subsidies and targets force the poor to pay more for vital energy.
7. Family First places strong emphasis on generous natural disaster relief. Family First supports the placement of Australian Defence Forces in neighbouring countries (by invitation from the relevant national government) to help local police forces maintain law and order.
8. By supporting government policies that respond in the ways outlined in number seven.
9. It is important that NGOs remain independent of government, not dependent on government funding and that governmental financial support for NGOs doesn't raise the tax burden on the general population.
10. Family First regularly advocates that our government must support non-government organisations active on the ground in other countries, not foreign governments. Not only does Australia then get better value for money and action closer to the crisis area, but funding NGOs better insulates aid funding from potential corruption via government officials.

Thank you again for your letter.

Kind regards

Senator Bob Day AO
Senator for South Australia



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