

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-economic Reintegration

WORLD REPORT ON DISABILITY

Australian Statement

23 June 2011

Statement delivered by Ms Christine Pahlman, Mine Action Coordinator, Australian Agency for International Development

Australia welcomes the release of the World Report on Disability by the World Health Organization and the World Bank and its important messages to the international community to make development assistance more inclusive so that the Millennium Development Goals can be achieved for all, including people with disabilities.

Australia is firmly committed to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

As you are aware Australia's *Development for All: Towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid program 2009-2014* strategy seeks to ensure that people with disability are included in and benefit equally from Australia's aid program.

Development for All is the Australia aid programs first strategy to explicitly include and focus on the needs and priorities of people with disability.

The strategy responds to Australia's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, both its framework for promoting the wellbeing and supporting the rights of people with disability and its call for countries to work together through international cooperation to ensure the Convention is put into practice.

We welcome the reports commendation of Australia's achievements in disability-inclusive development and inclusion of our aid program's disability strategy as a best-practice model of disability-inclusive development.

Australia's disability strategy is having a real impact as illustrated through a recent progress report:

- in Cambodia, we assisted the government to develop disability rights legislation which now forms a solid legal basis to end discrimination
- increasing numbers of young people with disability are now taking advantage of scholarship opportunities to study in Australia.

There are many policy and programming linkages between Australia's disability inclusive and mine action strategies.

We are also looking to ensure that our work on disability inclusive development and mine action is complementary, effective and responsive to the needs of victims and inclusive of all people with disabilities.

Australia was one of the main donors to the World Report on Disability and is supporting World Health Organization's efforts on disability through nearly \$4 million in funding over three years.

We thank and commend WHO for the work on the report.