



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee**

*Chair: The Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP
Deputy Chair: Senator Alex Gallacher*

Private sector funding the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria

Millions of lives are being improved throughout the Asia Pacific due to private sector partnerships in the region.

This is one of the messages to be heard tomorrow when the Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade meets with the Global Fund at a public hearing in Canberra.

The Global Fund is an international financing organisation based on partnerships between governments, civil society, the private sector, and people affected by AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in over 140 countries.

The Committee is investigating innovative ways of engaging the private sector in the fight against health epidemics as part of its inquiry into the role of the private sector in promoting economic growth and reducing poverty in the Indo-Pacific region.

According to the Global Fund, its investment in the region to date has enabled 950,000 people to receive anti-retroviral treatment for HIV, treatment of over eight million cases of tuberculosis, and over 59 million bed nets to be distributed to reduce the spread of malaria.

The Global Fund is recognised as an innovator in leveraging private sector engagement in its programs through corporate donorship and for program delivery at the local level. A new innovation in procurement, the P4i initiative, is expected to dramatically enhance this engagement, leveraging the Fund's significant market power to engage and upscale local suppliers.

The Committee Chair Dr Sharman Stone has welcomed the opportunity to hear more from the Global Fund's Executive Director Dr Mark Dybul.

"Through strategic partnerships with donors such as BHP Billiton, Chevron and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Global Fund has achieved great results in our region. The Committee is particularly interested in the Fund's innovative procurement model and its potential to provide new opportunities for economic growth in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in the Indo-Pacific," said Dr Stone.

When: 4.15 pm – 5:00 pm, Wednesday 11 February 2015

Where: Committee Room 1R1, Parliament House

The hearing will be broadcast live at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/live>

Further details about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, copies of submissions, and how to contribute can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jfadt or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313 or emailing jscfadt@aph.gov.au.

For media inquiries contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Dr Sharman Stone MP on (03) 5821 5371 (Electorate Office) or 02 6277 4477 (Parliament House)