



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 28 October 2014

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

*Chair: The Hon Teresa Gambaro MP
Deputy Chair: Senator Alex Gallacher*

Vaccinating for health and wealth in the Indo-Pacific

Large pharmaceutical companies are recognising the benefits of partnering with governments and aid organisations to provide affordable vaccines to the developing world.

The Gavi Vaccine Alliance is a public–private partnership organisation which has harnessed both the technical expertise of the development community and the know-how of the business sector to drive an unprecedented increase in immunisation coverage in the world’s poorest nations.

Since 2000, the Alliance has immunised almost half a billion children, with an estimated six million lives saved.

Gavi CEO, Dr Seth Berkley will speak at a public hearing on Wednesday as part of the Foreign Affairs and Aid Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade’s inquiry into the role of the private sector in promoting economic development and reducing poverty in the Indo-Pacific region.

In its submission to the inquiry, Gavi states that low levels of immunisation affect the bottom line of economic growth, from the families of women in micro-businesses through to large scale foreign enterprises, whereas increased immunisation boosts the productive capacity of an economy and is an incentive to private investment.

Gavi anticipates that over 2016–2020 the Alliance’s immunisation program will generate between US \$80 and \$100 billion in economic benefits; equivalent to nearly 75 per cent of the Official Development Assistance provided by OECD donors in 2013.

Sub-Committee Chair the Hon Teresa Gambaro MP says, “The Gavi Vaccine Alliance has been instrumental in engaging the vaccine industry and global donors through such initiatives as the GAVI Matching Fund and the International Finance Facility for Immunisation. The Sub-Committee welcomes the opportunity to explore with Gavi its uniquely productive partnership and development model in more depth.”

When: 1.00 pm–2:00 pm Wednesday, 29 October 2014

Where: Committee Room 1R3, 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 Sub-Committee Chair, the Hon Teresa Gambaro MP, on (07) 3356 1555 (Electorate Office) or 02 6277 4331 (Parliament House)