

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER
AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of certain citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House that one in every four children in the developing world suffers from stunting due to chronic malnutrition. The effects of stunting on a child's body and brain development are largely irreversible. Stunted children are more prone to illness and disease, are less likely to enrol in school or do well academically, and are more likely to end up in low-skilled employment or have no job at all.

As well as saving the lives of 7 million children over the past 10 years, foreign aid has helped fund nutrition interventions that have spared millions more children from stunting. We therefore ask the House to allocate 0.5 percent of Australia's national income to overseas aid by 2015. The decision to delay the increase to 2016 means \$2.9 billion less for the world's poor over the next four years which will see fewer children get the help they need for a better start in life.