

Dear Sir / Madam,

A 2008 study by the Centre for Philanthropy and Non-Profit Studies found that charitable giving had hardly increased in the last 10 years despite a 36 per cent rise in mean household wealth among affluent Australians in the period. Furthermore, the Giving Australia report (2005) estimated that only one eighth of all charitable giving went to international aid and development.

Clearly, the urgent task of addressing the injustice of world poverty would be placed on the backburner if it was up to the generosity of Australians, despite our growing affluence.

In reviewing the Australian Tax System, I urge you to consider the following proposals as a means of assisting the Prime Minister to make good on his election promise to significantly increase Australia's giving to international aid and development in line with the Millennium Development Goals.

- * Support the international implementation of the Currency Transaction Development Levy that would tax the trade in foreign exchange, worth a staggering \$3,200 billion daily;

- * Reverse the trend of lowering corporate and personal income taxes, particularly for high income earners; and

- * Introduce laws to stop wealthy Australians from using tax havens.

Also, I would support the revamping of motor vehicle tax to be proportionate to the amount of carbon emitted from vehicle exhausts (similar to what the German Government has decided).

As an Australian working in a developing country to address the injustice of poverty, I urge you to seriously consider these and any other creative proposals that may increase Australia's giving to the third world. It will make a huge difference in the lives of many.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa West-Newman