



PATH submission to the Australian Senate Inquiry into International Assistance

February 7, 2014

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization registered in Washington State, USA. PATH's mission is to improve the health of people around the world by advancing technologies, strengthening systems, and encouraging healthy behaviors. For over 35 years PATH has worked with partners from the public, private, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors to develop and deliver innovative health technologies and solutions to maximize public health impact.

PATH urges the Australian government to reconsider its decision to halt all global health investments in medical research. The Australian government's commitment to strengthen its investment in global health research and development (R&D) as outlined in its 2012 [Medical Research Strategy](#) had the potential to build on successes and make significant impact in improving health equity.

Innovations such as vaccines, oral rehydration solution, and bed nets, have cut in half the number of children who die before age five from pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria—three leading killers of children worldwide. But despite these significant gains, nearly 600,000 diarrhea-related child deaths occur each year and in Africa a child dies every minute from malaria. Therefore we need to redouble our efforts to develop and introduce new and better drugs, diagnostics, devices, and vaccines to prevent the leading killers of children.

As the bedrock of many global health successes, R&D is critical to developing the next generation of global health tools that can prevent, treat, and one day halt existing and emerging global health threats. For instance, access to antimalarial drugs has increased substantially in recent years, but drug resistance to even the most recently developed medicines is now emerging. New and improved medicines, as well as a safe and effective vaccine, are needed to build on health gains and accelerate progress towards our ultimate goal of eradicating malaria.

To meet the global health needs of tomorrow, it is critical that the Australian government continue its commitment to invest in research today so the most effective health solutions are available when and where they are needed.

Sincerely,

Steve Davis
President & CEO
PATH

About PATH

PATH is an international organization that drives transformative innovation to save lives and improve health, especially among women and children. We accelerate innovation across five platforms—vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, devices, and system and service innovations—that harness our entrepreneurial insight, scientific and public health expertise, and passion for health equity. By mobilizing partners around the world, we take innovation to scale, working alongside countries primarily in Africa and Asia to tackle their greatest health needs. Together, we deliver measurable results that disrupt the cycle of poor health. Learn more at www.path.org.