



Scope of Initiative Fighting Avoidable Blindness

As announced in the 2008-09 Budget, the Australian Government will commence a significant new package of initiatives laying the foundation for implementing its long-term commitment to increase Australia's international development assistance to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015-16.

The *Fighting Avoidable Blindness* initiative aims to address eye health and vision care needs in Asia and the Pacific and develop a disability-inclusive development strategy to guide Australia's aid program.

The Australian Government will invest \$45 million over three years in the *Fighting Avoidable Blindness Initiative*. Activities under the initiative will include:

- Developing strategic partnerships with a range of non-government organisations and other organisations working in eye health and vision care, building on and expanding existing work;
- Strengthening existing eye care training institutions and the capacity of eye care workers;
- Piloting the Vision Centre approach as part of the delivery of eye health and vision care needs;
- Assessing eye health and vision care needs to inform future efforts to reduce avoidable blindness; and
- Developing a disability-inclusive development strategy to guide Australia's aid program.

Implementation of the *Fighting Avoidable Blindness initiative* will be informed by the principles of the Government's new disability-inclusive development strategy, *Development for All*, launched on 25 November 2008. The *Fighting Avoidable Blindness* initiative will work with regional and international agencies to support work on blindness and vision impairment, including with Vision2020: the right to sight global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness.