

Assisting the victims – Australia's Intervention
Wednesday 20 September 2006

Thank you Madam President

Victim assistance is a major focus of Australia's Mine Action Strategy, which was launched in May this year.

Over the past 12 months, Australia allocated A\$4 million for landmine victim assistance, or 34 per cent of our total mine action expenditure.

Australia has contributed \$2 million to the ICRC's Global Mine Action Appeal for 2006, and has provided A\$500,000 to the Landmine Victim Assistance Fund in Cambodia.

We will also contribute A\$70,000 to support the work of the Implementation Support Unit's Victim Assistance Expert in 2007, who will help mine-affected states to develop integrated victim assistance Strategies.

Australia is committed to strengthening its development assistance support for survivor assistance programs through our Mine Action Strategy.

This assistance will include activities for care and rehabilitation, including psychological and social support for survivors, families and communities, as well as economic support for the restoration and development of livelihoods.

Our long-term aim through this work is to maximise opportunities for mine survivors to be productive and valued members of society.

Thank you