



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY

PHNOM PENH

MEDIA RELEASE

LAUNCH OF ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROGRAM

The Australian Ambassador, H.E. Ms Alison Burrows, and H.E. Dr Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs, today formally launched the Ending Violence Against Women Program at the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Funding for this program was announced in 2013.

Ambassador Burrows and Dr Kantha Phavi also signed the Memorandum of Subsidiary Arrangements for the Ending Violence Against Women (EVAW) Program.

In 2013, the Australian Government committed up to \$24 million to support ending violence against women in Cambodia, and to change attitudes and prevent violence so that women and girls can feel safer in communities. Since then, Australia has assisted the Royal Government of Cambodia to develop its second National Action Plan to End Violence Against Women (NAPVAW), has funded the domestic violence module of the Cambodia Demographic Health Survey, and has financed the first national prevalence study into violence against women.

Australia has also funded non-government organisations including the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED-PSF), the Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation, Legal Aid Cambodia and Hagar to provide health, psycho-social counselling, shelter, education and legal services to woman and girl survivors of violence. So far, close to 500 women and girls have benefited from this support.

Under the Memorandum of Subsidiary Arrangements signed today, the EVAW Program will focus on three areas:

1. Services – health, psycho-social counselling, shelter, education and legal services to effectively respond to instances of violence against women.
2. Prevention – working with government, civil society and private sector on attitudes towards violence against women.
3. Justice – working with law and justice institutions to improve policing and judicial responses.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ambassador Burrows said "Today marks another chapter in Australia and Cambodia cooperation ... The signing of this Memorandum represents our continued commitment to work together to help women and girls live lives free from violence and contribute fully to the future of Cambodia".

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