



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE VACCINES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

This week the Australian Government announced a new AUD500 million Regional Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

“There is no higher priority for countries in our region than access to COVID-19 vaccines” said Australia’s Foreign Minister and Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne.

“A fast, safe vaccine rollout in the Pacific and Southeast Asia will mean we are able to return to more normal travel, tourism and trade with our key partners in the region,” she said.

This initiative will make a significant contribution towards meeting the vaccine needs of Southeast Asia. It will include procurement and delivery of vaccine doses, assessment of vaccine safety and efficacy, and technical support for immunisation policy and planning.

His Excellency Pablo Kang, Australia’s Ambassador to Cambodia said “this is a very significant announcement that boosts Australia’s already deep engagement in the health sector in Cambodia, and should play a key role in Cambodia’s efforts to secure universal access to WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccines.”

The initiative builds on Australia’s AUD80 million commitment to the COVAX Facility Advance Market Commitment, which is designed to help developing countries access COVID-19 vaccine doses to meet the needs of their highest risk populations.

The support for vaccines is in addition to Australia’s ongoing development assistance for Cambodia’s COVID-19 response and economic recovery.

Australia is committed to supporting Cambodians to have equitable access to safe and affordable vaccines.

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