

To all Rotarians

You may have seen the open letter to the Australian Prime Minister in the August RDU. I would urge you to follow up that opportunity by writing to our Prime Minister and your local Member of Parliament to indicate your wish for our Government to donate funds to finish the job of eradicating polio.

I would also encourage you to register your response on a website that our partners at the Global Poverty Program have initiated at [www.theendofpolio.com](http://www.theendofpolio.com) This electronic vote will supplement the letters we send and get the message to our politicians in a polite and organised manner. I may say that a written letter is always more effective than an email as it carries a more personal touch.

The main letter is on page 35 of the August RDU and can also be obtained at [www.rotarydownunder.com.au](http://www.rotarydownunder.com.au)

I have attached a copy of that letter as amended for the specific dollar amount request and, if you wish to amend the letter further to suit your own style, then may I offer this possible alternative or addition:

As three of the four remaining countries with endemic polio are in the Commonwealth, I would ask that Australia, as the current chair of CHOGM, takes the lead on this issue. The World Health Organisation's Chris Maher, while on a recent fundraising trip to Australia, noted this fact and commented that "it's a good platform to raise the issue" and that Australia could play an important advocacy role.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to inform our leaders of the importance of this project and that we join with the World Health Organisation, The Global Poverty Program and the Gates Foundation to finally eradicate polio. The funding gap is the biggest barrier to completing this great Rotary initiative. We need Government funds to do the work and your letter will help.

The addresses of our PM is:

Julia Gillard MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT 2600

Finally, this is a very personal choice by each Rotarian and please feel free to amend any letter you send as you see fit, but please spend a little time writing as this is a great opportunity to let our leaders know how we feel on this issue.

Bernie Rodgers (Zone Challenge Coordinator)