

Media Release



Urgent humanitarian help needed to deal With Covid-19 outbreak in Myanmar

To: Australian media

Date: Thursday 22nd July 2021 (for immediate release)

The Australia Myanmar Institute (AMI) supports the call for urgent medical assistance to help deal with the Covid-19 outbreak now raging out of control in Myanmar.

We call upon the Australian Government to work closely with its key multilateral partners such as UNICEF, ASEAN and the World Health Organization to ensure urgent medical assistance is delivered effectively and quickly to responsible health agencies in Myanmar. A joint international taskforce, comprising of the UN-ASEAN, with assistance from the World Health Organization should be actively explored to determine an effective procedure for delivering and implementing urgent medical assistance to Myanmar.

Australia has skills in delivering a national Covid-19 vaccination program through the assistance of its Australian Defence Force (ADF) – these skills could be shared with an UN-ASEAN led taskforce to assist in Myanmar. Australia could also consider donating much needed Covid-19 vaccine supplies to Myanmar as it has done to other nations in the region.

AMI endorses the urgent appeal lodged by MEDAID International Foundation on 19 July (see link [here](#)), calling for urgent direct intervention from the UN representative, ASEAN, WHO or Western NGOs to implement a reliable and practical strategy to end this humanitarian crisis and to create 'safe health care zones' inside Myanmar.

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