



Australian Youth Pledge for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

On 1 January 2016, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came into effect. The 17 SDGs and their 169 targets were agreed to by 193 governments in September 2015 at the United Nations. The goals constitute a shared global framework of development priorities to 2030 and aim to bring an end to extreme poverty, promote prosperity and wellbeing for all, protect the environment, address climate change, and encourage good governance and peace.

The SDGs are ambitious and require action beyond 'business as usual'. Achieving the goals will require all stakeholders to play their part – governments, civil society, business, academia and youth – and to collaborate extensively.

Poverty and inequality, weak governance, conflict and instability, lack of infrastructure and the depletion of our natural resources contribute to long term and often irreversible problems and undermine the efforts of communities and societies to grow and prosper. Young people will have a vital role to play in addressing these critical global challenges and achieving the SDGs.

These challenges are relevant to all countries of the world, including Australia. As both a regional and global leader, Australia has a critical role in driving sustainable development. While Australia is an advanced country, we still face major challenges, including gender equity, domestic violence, homelessness, the rise of non-communicable diseases, environmental degradation, climate change, closing the gap experienced by Indigenous Australians amongst other issues.

Youth have the opportunity to play a central role in tackling the sustainable development challenges of the 21st century. Gifted with imagination, energy and optimism, young people should be considered the key drivers of sustainable development. They have the opportunity to tackle some of the biggest challenges of the 21st century by spearheading the sustainable development movement at the local, national and global level. This pledge recognises the role of Australian youth in this important global agenda.





We the undersigned:

- Recognise that future development must take place in a way that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable;
- Recognise that the SDGs establishes an agenda for the achievement of sustainable development by 2030;
- Recognise the enormous social, economic and environmental challenges facing the world;
- Stress the unique qualities possessed by youth that make them important stakeholders in achieving the SDGs, namely, creativity, enthusiasm and optimism;
- Stress the vitally important role that youth can play in achieving a sustainable future through advocacy, monitoring and implementation;
- Commit to the achievement of the SDGs;
- Undertake to align our priorities and activities with the SDGs and their targets; and
- Undertake to hold government, academia, business and civil society accountable in ensuring that concrete action is taken to achieve the SDGs.





Signed,

