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Media Release

International expert welcomes Australia's emphasis on reproductive health in overseas aid

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) congratulates the Federal Government on its innovative approach to HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health contained in a *Report for a White Paper on Australia's aid program* chaired by Professor Ron Duncan.

IPPF Director-General Dr Steven Sinding said "we are optimistic that the Australian aid program is set to recognise the role of sexual and reproductive health in tackling the HIV/AIDS crisis on its doorstep. Too many policies and programs on HIV don't recognise the link between sexual and reproductive health and HIV. Australia can be proud of its leadership in the Asia Pacific region in recommending greater investments in women and girls' health and education."

Dr Sinding is visiting Australia to meet politicians, NGOs, and AusAID officials to highlight the work family planning organisations are doing on sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS in the Asia Pacific region.

He will address a public forum entitled '**Where's the sex in the Millennium Development Goals? Linking sexual and reproductive health, HIV and poverty.**'

CONTACT: Gillian Davies, Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia
Phone: (02) 6230 5255 (work) or 0404 190 975

Kelsey Powell, Chief Executive Officer, Family Planning Queensland
Phone: 0417 720 238