



# Media Alert

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## How Denmark makes a difference

Roundtable Discussion, Main Committee Room

8.30am - 12.30pm, MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2006

Ms Anne Marie Tyndeskov-Voetmann, head of the Danish Foreign Affairs Department's UN Development section, will be the keynote speaker at a Roundtable Discussion at Parliament House, Canberra, next Monday morning, 11 September 2006.

Ms Tyndeskov-Voetmann will be one of eight speakers at *Sexual and Reproductive Health and the Millennium Development Goals in the Australian Aid Program — the Way Forward*, the second event of its kind held by the Parliamentary Group on Population and Development (PGPD). The Roundtable Discussion will be open to the public, and members of the media are welcome to attend and participate in discussion after each presentation.

Ms Tyndeskov-Voetmann will speak on the recently-published Danish policy *The Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights* (May 2006), which is based on the principle that "enabling people to have fewer children, if they want to, helps to stimulate development and reduce poverty, both at the individual and the macro level". The Danish policy states "people should be able to take their own decisions about their sexual and reproductive lives and have the means to do so. This includes access to reproductive health services and information and to safe and legal abortion".

PGPD Chair, Dr Sharman Stone, said the focus of Denmark's international development assistance was Africa, where sexual and reproductive ill-health accounts for more than 60 per cent of the burden of disease, compared with a global average of 18 per cent.

"We know there are also very high rates of reproductive ill-health in the Asia Pacific region, and we are keen to learn anything from the Danish experience that might be important in our region," Dr Stone said.

The opening statement at the PGPD Roundtable will be at **8.30 am** given by Dr Annmaree O'Keefe, Australia's HIV/AIDS Ambassador for the Asia-Pacific and a Deputy Director-General of AusAID. The presentation by Ms Tyndeskov-Voetmann is scheduled immediately afterwards, at 8.45am.

### Further presentations will follow on:

- *From Awareness to Implementation* (Dr Maxine Whittaker, JTA International);
- *Integration of HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services* (Dr Wendy Holmes, Burnet Institute);
- *HIV/AIDS Program in Integrated Development* (Bridgette Thorold Oxfam Australia)
- *Family Planning in the Aid Program* (Kelsey Powell Sexual Health and Family Planning Australia and Alice Oppen, Women's Plans Foundation)
- *Men as Partners in Reproductive Health* (Jenny Goldie, Australian Reproductive Health Alliance);
- *Post Abortion Care and Family Planning: Rights and Recommendations* (Dr Suzanne Belton, Charles Darwin University)

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