



SAVE THE MOTHER. SAVE THE WORLD.

PRESS RELEASE
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Anglican Aid partners with Barbara May Foundation to support safe birth and fistula treatment in Africa

SYDNEY: The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid (Anglican Aid), together with the Barbara May Foundation (BMF) has announced a fundraising partnership which raises money towards better outcomes for pregnant women and mothers in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Barbara May Foundation, founded by prominent surgeon and Sydney Anglican, Dr Andrew Browning, provides free maternal healthcare, including fistula treatment surgery, to women in sub-Saharan Africa, where over 204,000 women die each year in pregnancy and childbirth and many more are injured.

Anglican Aid is an aid and ministry support agency of Sydney Anglicans in partnership with the global church.

Dr. Browning worked for many years with Dr. Catherine Hamlin in Ethiopia and continues today working towards preventing fistulas and treating affected women in the name of Christ.

Obstetric fistula is an injury caused if a mother does not receive proper medical care when experiencing complications during childbirth, resulting in holes (fistula) in her bladder, bowel, or birth canal. These injuries have been largely eradicated in Australia thanks to the availability of medical interventions like caesareans.



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Anglican Aid will assist the Barbara May Foundation to fund hospitals in Ethiopia and Tanzania that provide free maternal healthcare, provide safe birth and treat women suffering with obstetric fistulas, as well as training midwives, doctors, and fistula surgeons in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania. All services are provided free-of-charge regardless of race, religion or financial capacity with more than 16,000 women assisted annually.

The partnership will encourage more Sydney Anglicans to support the work of Dr Andrew Browning through Anglican Aid.

Anglican Aid has been involved in supporting maternal healthcare in Africa since 1972, when, under Archbishop Marcus Loane and then Archbishop Harry Goodhew's directions, Anglican Aid supported the fistula hospital run by Drs Reg and Catherine Hamlin, and then the construction of a ward and doctor's residence for the hospital.

Canon Tim Swan, CEO of Anglican Aid said, "It brings me great joy to know that Anglican Aid is once again supporting safe childbirth and fistula treatment in Africa."

"Dr Andrew Browning is a wonderful example of being motivated by the love of Christ and using one's God-given gifts to care for those in the deepest distress. I pray that this partnership will encourage Christians in Australia to get behind this work, that we may see the grace of God overflowing to a world in need."

To make a tax-deductible donation towards safe childbirth in Africa through Anglican Aid, visit anglicanaid.org.au/projects/africa-maternal-healthcare-fistula-hospitals, or phone 02 9284 1406.

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To request an interview or photos please contact **Zhien-U Bakarich** on 02 9284 1406 or email zbakarich@anglicanaid.org.au.

About Anglican Aid (anglicanaid.org.au)

Anglican Aid strengthens churches and transforms communities by building relationships between Australian Christians and the local church around the world. We long to see the grace of God overflowing to a world in need.

About the Barbara May Foundation (barbaramayfoundation.com)

The Barbara May Foundation (BMF) was founded in 2009 to support the work of Australians Valerie Browning AM, and her nephew, Dr Andrew Browning AM in maternal healthcare in sub-Saharan Africa. They provide access to caring and knowledgeable maternal health professionals who treat all women with patience, respect and cultural sensitivity. The primary focus of BMF-funded programs is safe childbirth, the delivery of live babies, mothers not dying or injured during childbirth and the treatment of fistula injuries.