



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
KATHMANDU**

2 December 2010

**PRESS RELEASE**

**AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR VISITS CANCER SCREENING CAMP FOR WOMEN**

The Australian Ambassador to Nepal, Ms. Susan Grace, on Thursday, 2 December 2010, visited a breast and cervical cancer screening camp held at Bouddha by the Nepal Network for Cancer Treatment and Research.

The Embassy, under its Direct Aid Program (DAP) 2010/11, has provided a grant of AUD 14,500. The Australian Himalayan Foundation (AHF) provided a matching fund of AUD 14,500, for a total fund of AUD 29,000 to conduct breast and cervical cancer screening workshops across the country. The AHF is engaged in a number of education, health and environmental projects throughout the Himalaya including Nepal, India and Bhutan.

In Nepal, cervical cancer accounts for almost one third of all cancer cases in women, with more than 2000 new cases being detected each year. This equates to an incidence rate of over 18 per 100,000 per annum and poses a major health risk. It is important that cervical and breast cancer be detected and treated early. In Nepal, only a tiny percentage of women undergo screenings.

The Australian Government's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Nepal for the financial year 2010-2011 is AUD 18.44 million.

This year the DAP has funded eight projects at the value of NPR 11.4 million.

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