

## Survivor Assistance

(as delivered)

9 May 2006

Australia

### MSP Intersessional meeting

- . Australia recognises that, survivor assistance has been one of the lesser funded areas in this convention and that a long term commitment to assisting landmine survivors is needed by both mine-affected countries and donors.
- . Australia is committed to strengthening its development assistance support for survivor assistance programs over the next five years.
- . Australia is currently supporting a range of survivor assistance activities in heavily mine-affected countries within South-East Asia. Many of these activities are based on integrated approaches to mine action aimed at improving livelihoods of survivors, their families and their communities.
- . Australia has recently created the Landmine Survivor Assistance Fund in Cambodia to support grassroots community activities. A number of NGOs are being funded under this scheme to provide health services as well as support economic participation and social advocacy projects. AusAID is exploring options to develop a new, larger Landmine Victim Assistance program in 2006.
- . Australia is also supporting a Peer Support Network for Landmine Survivors in Vietnam, where survivors help survivors. The network provides a forum for survivors to discuss their needs, share information, make informed decisions about their physical rehabilitation, and access opportunities for livelihood development.
- . Australia was pleased to support the production of a 2005 edition of the Landmine Victim Assistance Overview Report of the Situation in 24 States Parties. The aim of this report (the first edition was produced in 2004) is to measure progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Action Plan. Australia considers this report to be a practical step towards addressing the wider policy implications of victim assistance, and commends it to all States Parties.