



**Senator Catryna Bilyk  
Labor Senator for Tasmania  
MEDIA RELEASE**

**Senator Bilyk raising awareness about Tuberculosis**

Senator Catryna Bilyk acknowledged World Tuberculosis Day, held on March 24, with a speech in the Senate during the last Parliamentary sitting.

Her speech highlighted the scale of the challenge the world faces in tackling TB.

“TB is now the third leading cause of death among women aged 15 to 44, killing some 700,000 women every year and causing illness in millions more. In 2008, 700,000 women died of TB, including 200,000 women living with HIV, while 3.6 million women fell sick with active TB,” said Senator Bilyk.

A passionate health advocate, Senator Bilyk spoke about the impact TB has on those people suffering from it, especially its impact on women.

The statistics clearly show that TB is a major women’s health issue, with particularly serious implications for women living with HIV.”

Tuberculosis is both a preventable and treatable disease which makes these statistics more alarming.

The Gillard Government has increased funding to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria with a 55 percent increase on Australia’s previous commitment.

“This shows the Government is committed to this important global health issue,” said Senator Bilyk.

The Senate also passed a motion acknowledging World Tuberculosis Day and calling on Australia to increase its aid to 0.5 per cent of gross national income.

To view Senator Bilyk’s full speech and the Senate motion visit her website <http://www.catrynabilyk.com/speeches.php> .

**/Ends 30 March 2011**

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