

Oaktree celebrates 10 years of youth-led advocacy

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Many in the Australian aid and development sector will know [Oaktree](#) and the important mark it has made on advocacy and campaigning for the Australian movement to end poverty. For those that don't, Oaktree is a youth-led organisation founded a decade ago on the principle of 'young people working to end extreme poverty in our lifetime'.

Ten years on this goal still underpins its work, and Oaktree has evolved from a small team of people with no office or budget to being Australia's largest youth-run organisation. They can count the 2006 **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** concert, the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** ZEROSEVEN Roadtrip (where Kevin Rudd announced the Labor commitment to reach an aid/GNI ratio of 0.5% by 2015/16), the Live Below the Line campaign (which has raised more than \$3 million for development programs in Cambodia and PNG), and numerous other community and youth engagement programs in their long [list of achievements](#).

To help celebrate Oaktree's growth and accomplishments over the past decade members are hosting events in every state. You can still [attend](#) the NSW, Queensland and South Australian events. For those in the ACT, I particularly encourage you to attend the celebration on the 25th of October where you can hear from the following guest speakers:

- The Hon. Dr Andrew Leigh, Federal MP for Fraser
- His Excellency Mr Abel Guterres, East Timorese Ambassador to Australia

You can find more details on the [Facebook event here](#) and purchase tickets [here](#).

I have had the privilege of working and volunteering for Oaktree throughout a decent chunk of my 20s, and I have never been exposed to a more driven group of young people selflessly working towards a goal we can all get behind. I hope some of our readers can join me in celebrating this milestone in Oaktree's history.