



Australian Government

# Australian Foreign Policy

By the Numbers

The Foreign Policy White Paper describes a tough, exciting and competitive landscape. It also describes five tasks set by the Australian Government for Australia's future:

- secure our interests in our region
- take up opportunities in the global economy
- keep Australians safe, secure and free
- strengthen the international rules that make it all work
- help our near neighbours and partners.

To complement the White Paper, we've set out some numbers to show how Australia's international network supports our engagement with the world.

# The story of our overseas network starts with people...

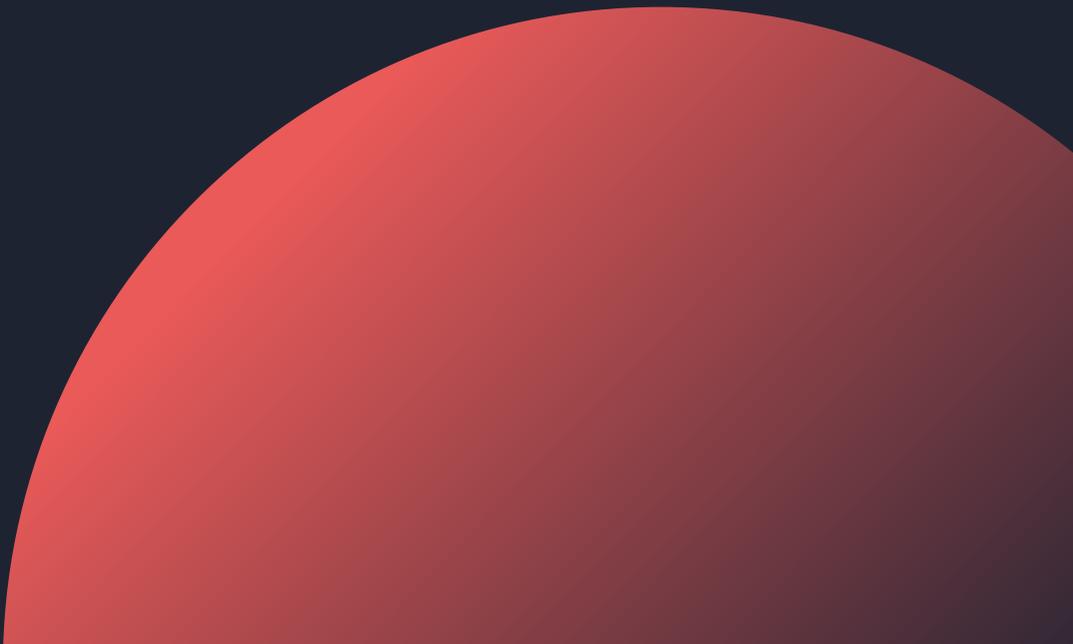
Right now, **2,363** Australians from **23** Australian Government departments and agencies are working in our **117** embassies, high commissions, consulates and trade offices overseas (posts, for short). This is the core of our overseas network.

There are also **4,385** locally employed people drawn from over **100** different nationalities who help us deliver the services and advice needed overseas.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has **2,643** staff in Canberra, **317** staff in our state and territory capitals and **897** Australian staff overseas. Over half (**55.1%**) of DFAT's overseas staff are based in our neighbourhood: Southeast Asia, South Asia and the Pacific.

DFAT's Australian-based staff support **108** foreign diplomatic missions in Canberra and **369** consulates and honorary consulates around Australia that represent **164** countries.

Our people speak about **40** languages. This means we can better understand and communicate with our host countries, and do the best possible job of representing Australia's interests overseas.



# We help secure economic opportunity...

Our economic growth, prosperity and standard of living depend on our ability to sell our goods and services around the world.

Australian companies are impressive on the global stage—international trade is worth **40%** of our gross domestic product. **1 IN 5** Australian jobs are related to trade, and the average Australian household is better off by **\$8,448** a year after three decades of trade liberalisation.

For **70** years, Australia's trade negotiators have been working to ensure rules around international trade work for Australia. These rules underwrite almost **\$2 BILLION** of Australia's trade each day, or over **\$687 BILLION** a year. That means more certainty, better access to global markets and better opportunities for Australian businesses operating abroad.

More than **3,000** Australian business people have attended one of our free trade agreement roadshows to learn about export opportunities. We've held over **80** roadshows since 2015.

Our international network also encourages investment in Australia. Around **\$3 TRILLION** in total foreign investment was secured in Australia at the end of 2016. It helps tourism attract **7.9 MILLION** visitors a year, who spend **\$40.6 BILLION** and employ **580,000** Australians. The Government also has agricultural specialists in **16** markets, working to expand and maintain access for our farmers under other countries' technical and biosecurity arrangements.

In 2016, Australia was the **THIRD-LARGEST** provider of education to international students. More than **550,000** students from over **180** countries studied here. They spent **\$22.4 BILLION** and employed over **130,000** Australians. This creates lively, multicultural learning experiences, but also boosts our domestic education market for everyone's benefit.

New technology and innovation will help create the jobs of the future. The Government supports more than **4,000** science, research and innovation projects with over **100** countries through its competitive funding schemes.

Austrade staff in more than **49** global markets are on the hunt for opportunities for Australian businesses. In the last financial year, Australia's Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (Efic) provided **\$396 MILLION** in financial assistance to Australian exporters, which supported **170** export contracts worth over **\$1 BILLION**.

# We help keep Australia and Australians safe...

Security is not something any nation can guarantee in isolation, and we work closely with our neighbours and friends in the region and further afield.

The Department of Defence is committed to ensuring we can defend our nation, as well as deepening and extending international defence relationships. We deploy defence personnel overseas—**2,350** of them in **9** separate active operations at present, and another **900** stationed in **47** countries representing our interests and working closely with our partners.

About **70%** of serious and organised crime in Australia has an international connection. The Australian Federal Police has representatives in **33** countries working in partnership with foreign law enforcement agencies.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection supervised **43 MILLION** crossings at Australia's international borders in 2016-17. During the same period, ships made **36,654** visits to Australian ports, over **58 MILLION** international mail items were inspected, and our detector dogs made **1,974** detections.

In 2016-17, the Department of Health monitored **51** international public health events and assessed the level of threat posed to Australians. It also reported **71** public health incidents that occurred in Australia to other countries.

Safety and prosperity go hand in hand, so we work with our neighbours to make our region more prosperous and secure.

In 2017-18, we will provide **\$3.9 BILLION** in overseas development assistance and design and deliver programs to reduce poverty and encourage economic growth. In 2015-16, **1,106,186** girls and boys enrolled in school and **2,816,720** children were vaccinated because of Australian aid.

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research invests in more than **250** projects every year, building capacity and improving the lives of people in **36** countries.

Our aid program helped over **200,000** people after Cyclone Winston in 2016. The Government is also supporting **57** high-performing non-government organisations like World Vision Australia and the Australian Red Cross to the tune of **\$129 MILLION** for some **450** projects in over **50** countries this year alone.

# We help Australians get out there...

More than **56%** of Australians have a passport—that's around **14 MILLION** passports. In 2016-17, we issued **2,070,038** Australian passports and **4,562** were reported lost or stolen overseas.

Australians generally use common sense when they travel. On average, **1,000** people a day register as new users with Smartraveller and the Smartraveller website received more than **19 MILLION** page views in 2016-17.

Sometimes things go wrong and DFAT is called on to help Australians in trouble. In 2016-17, **12,454** people were provided consular assistance in **187** locations overseas. Or they called home – each year, DFAT's Consular Emergency Centre answers around **66,000** calls from Australia and overseas.

Australia's first Government-sponsored overseas volunteer worked in Jakarta in 1951. Since then, over **13,000** Australians, young and old, have been volunteers in **70** developing countries working with around **3,000** partner organisations. Last year, the Government supported over **1,200** volunteers in **25** countries in around **750** organisations, all of them helping to advance Australia's interests overseas and providing crucial support to our neighbours.

Students are great pathfinders and Australian students study all around the world. By 2018 we will have supported more than **30,000** young Australians to study and connect with people in **40** destinations across our region through New Colombo Plan scholarships and grants.

# We share our culture, our values and our multicultural way of life with the world...

Australians are diverse: **1 IN 4** were born overseas and **1 IN 2** have a parent born overseas. In 2016-17, the Australian Government conferred Australian citizenship on **137,750** people from at least **200** different countries.

Our diplomatic missions are engaging daily with the world. In 2015-16, they collectively hosted **838** cultural diplomacy events, celebrating Australian sport, fashion, film, music, food, wine and art.

They also shared celebrations with our neighbours across faith and culture, attending more than **100** different religious or cultural festivals and holidays every year.

Our embassies, high commissions and consulates are also working in the digital space. Australian Government mission websites overseas clocked **10,256,205** users during 2016-17. These users made **14,931,236** visits to our sites, generating **33,377,100** page views.

On social media, we run more than **230** accounts overseas and in Australia, from Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to the Chinese sites Weibo and WeChat.

As we do our job we help, work with and draw inspiration from Australians from all walks of life. Maybe you're a grandparent or a volunteer working in the Pacific. Or an exporter of ice cream, wine or coal. You may be a young Australian studying overseas. Or you might enjoy saving money on white goods from Korea, thanks to our free trade agreement. Whatever your story, you're an important part of Australia's foreign policy.

Australia is a top 20 country

Australia is the **second-wealthiest nation** in terms of wealth per adult after Switzerland.

Australia is the **world's largest exporter** of coal, iron ore, beef and wool.

Australia is the **world's third-largest provider of education** to international students.

Australia is ranked **first on the Global Creativity Index**.

Australia is ranked **first for wellbeing** with six of our states in the top 10 OECD regions.





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