

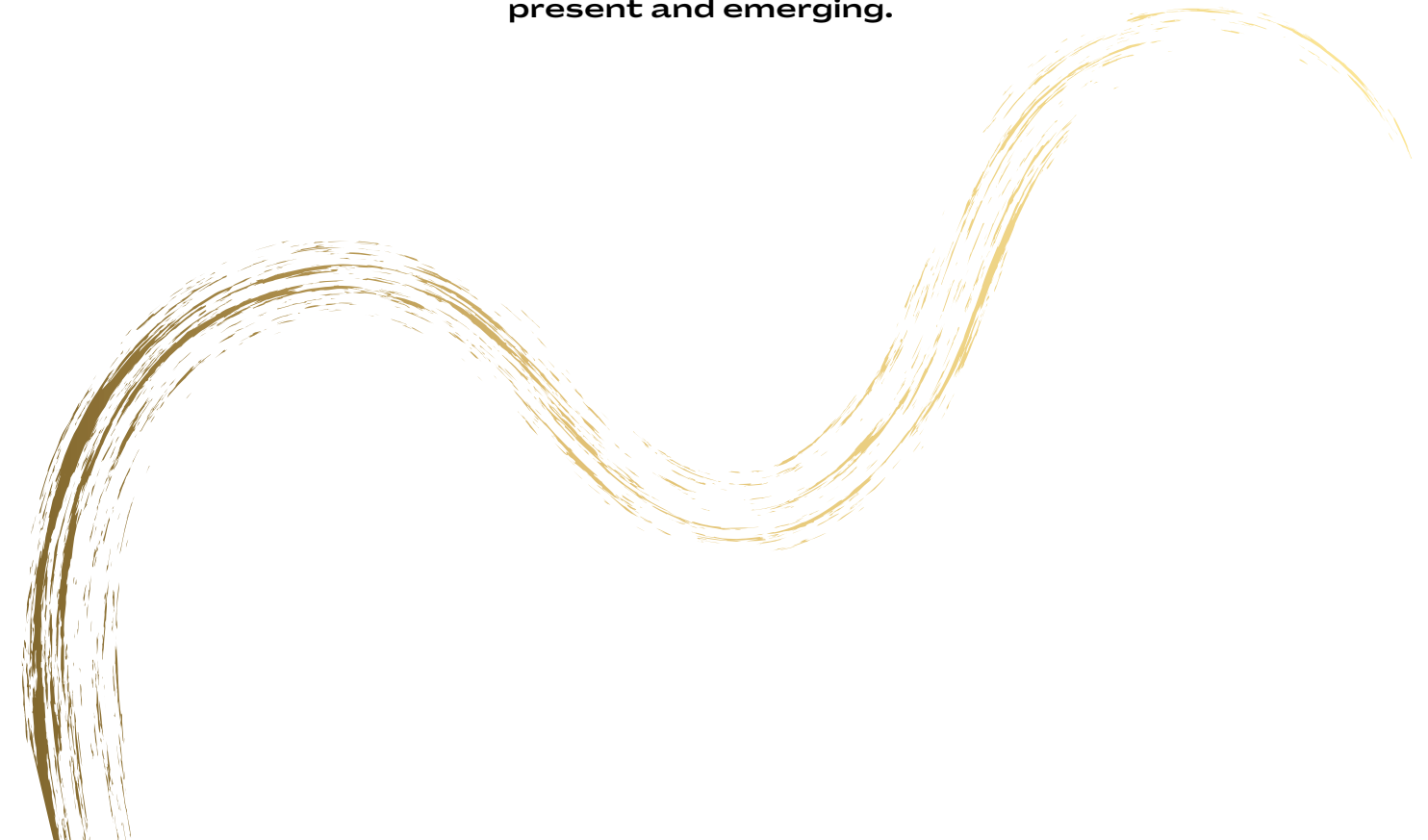
The background is a solid teal color. It features several thick, wavy, yellow lines that flow across the frame. One line starts in the top left, curves down and then up towards the top right. Another line starts in the bottom left, curves up and then down towards the bottom right. A third line is on the right side, curving from the top towards the bottom. The lines have a slightly textured, hand-drawn appearance.

AUSTRALIA IN BRIEF

Acknowledgement of country

**The Department of Foreign Affairs
and Trade acknowledges the traditional
custodians throughout Australia
and pays respect to elders past,
present and emerging.**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned that
the following pages may contain images of deceased persons.



CONTENTS

6	Welcome				
12	Snapshot of Australia	48	Major tourism destination	82	Regional and global engagement
		52	Environment and wildlife		
		54	A leading Antarctic nation	83	Indo-Pacific engagement
16	Indigenous Australians	56	Strong and open economy	84	Rules-based international order
18	Indigenous recognition and milestones	58	Economy	86	International development cooperation
22	NAIDOC Week & National Sorry Day	60	Trade and investment	92	Defence and security
		61	Indigenous procurement policy	93	Peace operations
24	Australians: who we are	62	Trading partners	94	World-class education system
24	Our population	64	Free trade agreements		
25	Australian South Sea Islanders	66	Foreign investment	96	Education
25	A united, diverse nation	67	Why Australia	97	New Colombo Plan
28	Australia's national symbols	69	Innovation and technology	98	Australia Awards
30	National anthem	70	Australia's tech credentials	100	Leading world-class medical research and health systems
31	National celebrations	72	World-leading research		
32	Early Europeans and Federation	76	Renewable energy	102	The Royal Flying Doctor Service
34	Social policy: early days	78	Hydrogen strategy		
35	Gender equality and the empowerment of women	79	Mining and resources	104	Sporting excellence
38	Australian democracy	80	Australia and the world		
40	Australian Government			104	A great, sporting nation
41	Rule of law and regulatory frameworks	81	International engagement	106	Major sporting events
44	Australian values				
46	Digital connectivity			108	Snapshot of Australia's creative sector
47	Media and communications			110	Australian National Collecting Institutions
				110	Australian regional arts and culture
				111	Performing arts in Australia
				112	Indigenous visual arts
				113	Australian music industry
				114	Major Australian cultural festivals and events
				115	Australian screen industry
				116	Visiting Australia
				116	Visa and immigration requirements
				117	Biosecurity requirements
				119	Legal information
				119	Creative Commons
				119	Use of the Australian Coat of Arms
				120	Reference list

WELCOME TO OUR GREAT SOUTHERN LAND

📍 Kangaroo Island, South Australia

Image courtesy of Tourism Australia.

With spectacular landscapes, an attractive lifestyle, rich ancient cultures, and a diverse population from all corners of the globe, Australia is a land like no other.

Australia is home to an incredible 10 per cent of the world's biodiversity, including a great number of native plants and animals that exist nowhere else on earth.

From tropical rainforests in the north to the red deserts of the centre and snowfields of the south-east, Australia is a vast and varied land of World Heritage-listed treasures.

📍 Cairns, Queensland



- WA Western Australia
- NT Northern Territory
- TA Tasmania
- VIC Victoria
- QLD Queensland
- SA South Australia
- NSW New South Wales
- ACT Australian Capital Territory

Visit the Great Barrier Reef, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, the Sydney Opera House and the engineering marvel of the 6000-year-old Budj Bim eel traps to gain an insight into the beauty and ingenuity of this great land and its people.

Australia is home to some of the world's oldest living cultures - Aboriginal communities lived on and managed the land for more than 60,000 years before European settlement in 1788.

Today, Australia is one of the globe's most multicultural countries with world-class cuisine and a dynamic creative sector that reflects its varied origins.

Australians' passion for sport and for the vast outdoors are now matched by excellence in research, design, innovation and science. The nation has a long history as a leader in social policy and was ranked sixth in the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Report 2019.¹

Australia is a nation with a highly skilled workforce and proud history of democracy, stable governance and strong institutions.

It had the world's 14th largest economy in 2019, experiencing 28 consecutive years of economic growth prior to the unprecedented COVID-19 global pandemic of 2020.

Australia's development and adaptability in the face of crisis has been forged through an enterprising spirit, resilience, creativity and unquenchable desire to succeed. Australian innovations continue to improve the lives of billions – from new research emerging as a result of COVID-19, to the black box flight recorder, Google Maps, Wi-Fi technology, the bionic ear, spray-on skin and a cutting-edge vaccine for cervical cancer.

Australia in Brief provides an authoritative introduction to this remarkable land, its people and their way of life, looking at Australia's economic, social, scientific and cultural achievements, and its foreign, trade and defence policies.

As a nation of boundless opportunity, innovation, and resilience through good times and bad, Australia is a preferred partner and friend.

📍 Circular Quay, New South Wales

SNAPSHOT OF AUSTRALIA

Full title

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Capital city

CANBERRA

Main language

ENGLISH + MORE THAN 300 OTHERS

📍 Uluru, Northern Territory

Population

25.7M

(June 2020)²

Proportion of population born overseas

33.3%

(2016)³

Surface area

7.69M KM²

(2.96 million mi²)⁴

THE 6TH LARGEST COUNTRY

and the only nation to govern an entire continent

Currency

AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR (AUD)

Proportion of population who identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin

Life expectancy

WOMEN 85 YRS

MEN⁵ 81 YRS

Largest city

GREATER SYDNEY POPULATION 5.3M

(June 2019)⁶

3.3%

(2019)⁷



BIODIVERSITY IS AT THE HEART OF AUSTRALIA

Australia is one of the most biologically diverse countries on the planet, hosting landscapes that range from alpine to temperate zones, and desert to tropical zones. Only six per cent of the land is arable, with the country marked by a range of environmental conditions, natural climatic variability, high fire frequency and a generally flat topography.

Australia is building resilience to climate change impacts domestically to help protect our people, wildlife and other animals, and our economy.

📍 Royal Botanic Gardens, Victoria

Image courtesy of Tourism Australia.

A SECOND HOME TO 758,154 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS


In 2019 Australia was the world's third most popular destination for international students⁸.

SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST LIVEABLE CITIES

Three Australian cities - Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide - were listed in the top ten world's most liveable cities in 2019 by the Economist Intelligence Unit's global liveability index⁹.

📍 Royal Croquet Club, Adelaide, South Australia

Image courtesy of Tourism Australia.

A close-up photograph of an Aboriginal rock painting on a reddish-brown rock surface. The painting depicts several fish-like shapes in white ochre, some with black outlines and dots. The rock surface is textured and shows signs of weathering.

The rich ochre colours of an Aboriginal rock painting gallery featuring The Great Fish Chase. Raft Point, Western Australia.

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Australian Indigenous cultures are among the oldest living cultures in the world

Aboriginal Australians are custodians of some of the oldest continuous living cultures in the world. Archaeological evidence suggests that the first Australians have lived in harmony with the Australian continent for at least 60,000 years¹⁰. Another distinct group, the Torres Strait Islander people of Melanesian origin, first settled on islands north of the mainland between the tip of Queensland and Papua New Guinea thousands of years ago.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians maintain different and distinctive traditions and beliefs, which vary across all of Australia.

Their creation stories and lore form sophisticated belief systems that traverse the landscape, and their ancient rituals and ceremonies remain a source of cultural sustenance.

Indigenous Australians were the first known bakers of bread anywhere in the world. The discovery of ancient grinding stones suggests that the first Australians have been grinding seed to bake bread for at least 30,000 years, even before the ancient Egyptians. They settled, built houses and governed territory, deploying codified rules and governance structures. They sowed, harvested and stored crops, and made garments¹¹.



📍 Parliament House, Australian Capital Territory

Michael Nelson Jagamara (born 1945) Luritja/Warlpiri peoples, fabricated by William McIntosh, Aldo Rossi and Franco Colussi, Forecourt Mosaic Pavement, Parliament House Canberra (Possum and Wallaby Dreaming), 1986–1987. Over 90,000 granite setts on cement. Reproduced with permission of the Artist through the Aboriginal Artists' Agency Ltd. Photograph courtesy of the Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra ACT. ©The artist licensed by Aboriginal Artists' Agency Ltd.

The first Australians were also expert navigators and inspired engineers. By taking an Indigenous guided tour or joining a cultural experience, visitors and locals can witness extraordinary feats of engineering and ancient land management practices, and glimpse the deep cultural knowledge and understanding of the traditional owners.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages remain important to Australian cultures and ways of life. At the time of European settlement, there were over 250 Indigenous language groups across Australia¹². Efforts are underway to keep language strong in communities and to revive sleeping languages.

Indigenous cultures are diverse, strong and a vital part of Australia's national identity. Indigenous Australians make leading contributions in many areas including the arts, media, academia, politics, sport and business. 2020 Young Australian of the Year and the world's number one singles tennis player, Ashleigh Barty, is a Ngarigo woman who grew up in Ipswich, Queensland.

Indigenous recognition and milestones¹³

First contact between Aboriginal Australians and European colonisers in 1788 quickly escalated into frontier conflict that lasted for over 140 years,



Image courtesy of Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia.

and the introduction of new diseases had further devastating effects on Indigenous Australians. In July 2020, the First Ministers of all Australian Governments signed a new Agreement negotiated directly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to 'Close the Gap' between the health, social and economic outcomes of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

A national referendum, held on 27 May 1967, removed references from the Australian Constitution that excluded Indigenous Australians from being counted in the census. The referendum saw the highest 'yes' vote ever recorded in a referendum in Australia, with just

over 90 per cent of Australians voting for the change. The referendum and the High Court Mabo decision of 3 June 1992, which recognised native title and Indigenous Australians' entitlements to possession, occupation, use and enjoyment of their traditional lands, are important milestones in Australian history.

In 2008, the Australian Parliament passed a motion of Apology to Indigenous Australians for past mistreatment and injustices, especially the Stolen Generations, who were Indigenous children forcibly removed from their families.

“

**THE TIME HAS NOW COME FOR
THE NATION TO TURN A NEW
PAGE IN AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY**

by righting the wrongs of the
past and so moving forward with
confidence to the future ...

A future where all Australians,
whatever their origins, are
truly equal partners, with equal
opportunities and with an
equal stake in shaping the next
chapter in the history of this
great country, Australia.

– Prime Minister the Hon Kevin Rudd MP,
13 February 2008.

”

A voice for Indigenous Australians

The Australian Government is working in
partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander people across Australia to co-design a
practical way for Indigenous voices to be heard
at all levels.



Dates of significance

NAIDOC Week is observed in Australia from the first Sunday in July until the following Sunday, every year with a different theme. The week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

National Sorry Day is observed annually on 26 May to remember and acknowledge the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities, which we now know as 'The Stolen Generations'.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how we can each contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey - the successful 1967 referendum, and the Australian High Court Mabo decision respectively.



Koomurri Dance Troupe at the 2018 National NAIDOC Awards, image courtesy of National NAIDOC Committee.

Australians WHO WE ARE

Our population

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are now joined by people from nearly 200 countries, making Australia home to over 25 million people from a rich variety of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds¹⁴.

A united, diverse nation

Australia enjoys high levels of social cohesion and broad public support for migration. Until the 1970s, the majority of immigrants to Australia came from Europe. These days, Australia receives many more immigrants from Asia, and since 1996 the number of immigrants from Africa and the Middle East has almost doubled¹⁵.

Australia is characterised as modern, contemporary and multicultural, reflected in its people, buildings, fashion, recreation and food. Australians embrace all ethnicities, genders, abilities, and religious beliefs. Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and other places of worship are found in almost every major city.

Australian South Sea Islanders

Australian South Sea Islanders (ASSI) are the Australian-born descendants of more than 60,000 South Sea Islanders who were brought to Australia between 1863 and 1904 to work as indentured labourers in Australia's primary industries, mainly sugar. They came from around 80 islands in the Pacific, though the majority came from Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. Many were kidnapped, 'blackbirded' or deceived into coming. Between 1904 and 1906 the majority were deported under the 'White Australia Policy' unless they fell into an exemption category or evaded deportation. Despite immense hardship and discrimination, the story of the Australian South Sea Islander community is one of survival and resilience. The Commonwealth Government's recognition of the ASSI community as a distinct cultural group in 1994 was an important step in an ongoing journey of understanding, and affirmed the special place of Australian South Sea Islanders within the fabric of our nation.



Australian Kangaroos coach Mal Meninga.
Image courtesy of AAP.

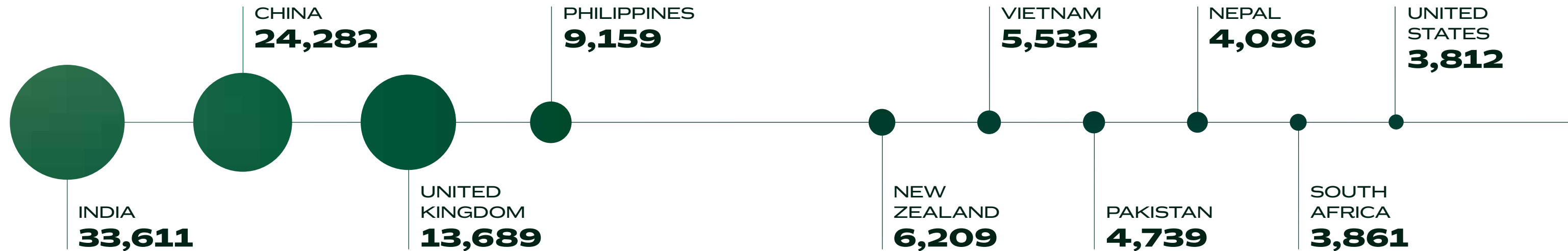
160,323

IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA IN 2018-19¹⁶

OVER 30 PER CENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN RESIDENT POPULATION WERE BORN OVERSEAS¹⁸

And around 45 per cent report having at least one parent who was born overseas. More than 300 languages are spoken in Australian homes. The top five (excluding English) are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese and Italian.

The top 10 source countries for immigrants included: ¹⁷



Australia's national symbols¹⁹

The Australian National Flag



The stars of the Southern Cross represent Australia's geographic position in the Southern Hemisphere. The large Commonwealth star symbolises the federation of the states and territories, and the Union Jack reflects Australia's early ties to Great Britain.

The Aboriginal Flag



Harold Thomas, a Luritja man of Central Australia, is the designer and copyright owner of the Aboriginal Flag. The colours of the flag represent the Aboriginal people of Australia, the red earth, the red ochre used in ceremonies and Aboriginal people's spiritual relation to the land, and the sun, the giver of life and protector²⁰.

The Torres Strait Islander Flag



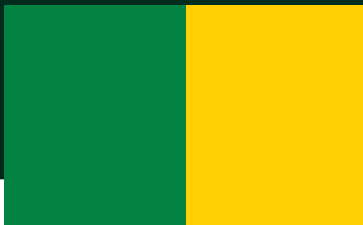
Designed by Bernard Namok, the Torres Strait Islander flag was created as a symbol of unity and identity for Torres Strait Islander peoples. Torres Strait Islanders' culture and traditions are strongly connected to the land and sea – elements represented in the flag. The colours of the flag represent the land, the Indigenous peoples, the sea and peace.

The Coat of Arms



The Australian Commonwealth Coat of Arms consists of a shield containing the badges of the six Australian states, symbolising federation, and the national symbols of the Golden Wattle, the kangaroo and the emu.

Our National Colours



Australia's national colours are green and gold. The colours represent the Golden Wattle, which was proclaimed the national floral emblem in August 1988.

National anthem

The tune of 'Advance Australia Fair' has been Australia's official national anthem since 19 April 1984. From 1 January 2021 the second line of the anthem was changed from 'For we are young and free' to 'For we are one and free'. The change acknowledges the success born out of the world's longest living continuous culture, the ever-lasting impact of European settlement and the richness of multicultural influence in completing our nation's fabric.

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are one and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

National celebrations

Australia Day is celebrated each year on 26 January to celebrate our nation, its achievements, and its people. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to further celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

ANZAC DAY: LEST WE FORGET

ANZAC Day, 25 April, is the day the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed at Gallipoli in Turkey in 1915 during World War I. The day is a national day of commemoration for all Australians and New Zealanders who died while fighting wars, with Australians and New Zealanders attending ceremonies at home and around the world, including in Gallipoli.

Early Europeans and Federation²¹

Parts of the continent were mapped by Dutch navigators in the 17th century and by French and British navigators the following century, but it was not until 1770 that Captain James Cook charted the east coast and claimed it for Great Britain.

From 1788, Britain established a penal colony in Australia. Free settlers followed in increasing numbers, gradually outnumbering convicts, with a colony made up entirely of free settlers established in South Australia in the 1830s.

Image courtesy of Hype TV.

Port Arthur, Tasmania

Queensland and Victoria separated from New South Wales in the 1850s, by which time gold had been discovered. The gold rush brought immigrants to Australia from all over the world.

In 1901, the six colonies united to form the Commonwealth of Australia. Although an autonomous federation, Australia remained firmly wedded to the British Empire. From 1914 to 1918, more than 400,000 Australians volunteered to the British imperial cause in World War I²². When World War II broke out in 1939, Australia again joined Britain against the Axis powers in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.

The deteriorating international situation prompted Australia to establish its first independent diplomatic missions

to foreign countries when ministers were accredited to the United States of America and Japan in 1940 and to China in 1941. When the Pacific War erupted, Australia allied with the United States against Japan. This alliance was formalised in 1951 when Australia entered into the ANZUS Treaty with the United States and New Zealand.

On 1 November 1945, Australia became a founding member of the United Nations, thereby participating in the earliest efforts to establish a rules-based international order. Along with these post-war initiatives, Australia signed an agreement on commerce with Japan in 1957, underlining Australia's increasing engagement with its own region.

OUR CONVICT PAST

There are more than 3,000 convict sites remaining in Australia. This is unique in the world today. In 2010, 11 Australian convict sites were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Social policy: early days

Even prior to federation, the Australian states were early leaders in social policy. They were among the first to adopt the institutions of representative democracy, including the secret ballot (known as the ‘Australian ballot’ in the USA) and female suffrage. They were leaders in the codification of the eight-hour working

day, the minimum wage, arbitration of industrial disputes and the introduction of an age pension²³. Australia maintains both an inclusive and progressive approach to social policy, built on fostering economic and social prosperity.

The proportion of women in the Commonwealth parliament is 37 per cent²⁴, an increase of 4.7 percentage points since the commencement of the previous parliament in 2016.

This represents the largest single increase in the proportion of women from one parliament to another since 1996. In September 2019, the proportion of women in the Senate increased to 50 per cent, a significant achievement for women in politics.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women

Australia prides itself on prioritising women’s economic empowerment, safety, and leadership. The Australian Government has made significant investments in gender equality domestically, working closely with state and territory governments, the business community and civil society. The Workplace Gender Equality Agency, charged with promoting and improving gender equality in Australian workplaces, and the \$158.3 million 2018 Women’s Economic Security Statement, together play an important role in creating equal opportunities for Australian women and girls.

Despite the impacts of COVID-19, much has been achieved in the past year in women’s workforce participation and the gender pay gap.

Women’s workforce participation was at a record high of 61.5 per cent in January 2020, prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Australia. Due to COVID-19, women’s workforce participation fell to a low of 57.5 per cent in May 2020, and has recovered to 61.2 per cent as of January 2021²⁵. The gender pay gap set a record low of 13.4 per cent in November 2020²⁶. Yet there is more progress to be made, particularly in relation to family and domestic violence.

The Australian Government has contributed \$340 million to support the Fourth Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children (2010-2022) to keep women and their children safe in their homes, communities, workplaces and online. This funding was built upon as part of the COVID-19 response to address domestic violence exacerbated by the crisis. In addition, Australia continues to advocate and invest internationally to strengthen and protect women’s rights.



The Male Champions of Change initiative supports influential males to redefine men's roles and take action on gender inequality in organisations and communities.

The initiative has grown from eight CEOs to over 200 CEOs of iconic Australian brands and companies including Qantas, the Australian Defence Force, the Australian Federal Police, the University of Queensland and Tennis Australia.



AFLW Carlton Blues forward Tayla Harris speaks next to Carlton CEO Cain Liddle, Male Champion of Change, during a press conference at Ikon Park on 20 March 2019 in Melbourne, Australia.



Melanie Perkins is an Australian technology entrepreneur. She is known as the CEO and co-founder of Canva, an online graphic design and publishing tool. Melanie is one of the youngest female CEOs to be leading a tech startup valued at over a billion dollars.

In July 2016, the Australian Government announced a target of women holding 50 per cent of positions on all its boards. As at 31 December 2019, women held 48.4 per cent of Australian Government board positions, the highest overall result since reporting began in 2009.

While latest results released by the Australian Institute of Company Directors show the percentage of women on ASX 200 boards remained constant in the last quarter at 30.7 per cent, gender diversity has increased significantly over the last decade from 10.7 per cent in 2010.

32.6%
Women on
ASX 200 boards²⁷

48.5%
Australian
Government
board positions
held by women²⁸



Australian democracy

Australia is a representative democracy in which eligible voters elect candidates to carry out the business of government on their behalf. All Australian citizens over the age of 18 must vote in elections. Australia's Government is answerable to the Parliament for its actions and ministers accept full responsibility for decisions made by their department. Australia's institutions are independent, robust and transparent.

From the 1850s to the 1890s, when few other countries in the world were democratic, the Australian colonies progressively established universal male suffrage and were among the first to give women the vote. In 1901, the six separate British self-governing colonies came together to become states of the Commonwealth of Australia and the first federal election took place 29-30 March 1901.

Australian democracy has at its heart the following core defining values²⁹:

**FREEDOM OF
ELECTION
AND BEING
ELECTED**

**FREEDOM OF
ASSEMBLY
AND POLITICAL
PARTICIPATION**

**FREEDOM
OF SPEECH,
EXPRESSION
AND
RELIGIOUS
BELIEF**

RULE OF LAW

**OTHER BASIC
HUMAN RIGHTS**

Australian Government

The Australian Constitution of 1901 established a federal system of government, where powers are distributed between a national government (the Commonwealth) and the six States. The Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory have self-government arrangements.

Australia follows the British (Westminster) tradition of government. The Governor-General, representing The Queen, exercises the executive power of the Commonwealth. In practice, the Governor-General acts on the advice of the head of the Government, the Prime Minister, and other ministers.

The Prime Minister leads a Cabinet of ministers, each of whom has responsibility for a portfolio of government duties. After a general election, the political party (or coalition of parties) with the support of a majority of Members in the House of Representatives forms a government

and its leader becomes the Prime Minister. Commonwealth ministers are appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister. Similar systems operate in the states and territories.

The High Court of Australia (Australia's highest court) and the Federal Court of Australia have the authority to interpret constitutional provisions, with the Constitution vesting legislative power in federal parliament. The parliament makes laws, authorises the Government to spend public money, scrutinises government activities, and is a forum for debate on national issues.



Rule of law and regulatory frameworks

Australia has a strong tradition of respect for the rights and freedoms of every individual. This tradition is founded on the rule of law, which is a core value of our democracy requiring that all authority be subject to, and constrained by, the law. By investing in strong legislative and regulatory frameworks, Australia ensures that our legal systems are effective and accessible. Our legal systems are guided by processes that are transparent and subject to scrutiny by the public and its elected officials.



📍 Australian Parliament House,
Australian Capital Territory

Quick statistics on parliament and government

227

Federal representatives
(senators and members)

76

Senators in the Senate

Senators represent states – each state is represented by 12 senators and each territory has two senators

151

Members in the House of Representatives

Each one of the 151 members³⁰ is elected by about 109,700 voters in each electorate

Australia is a constitutional monarchy – 'constitutional' because the powers and procedures of the Australian Government are defined by a written constitution and 'monarchy' because Australia's Head of State is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Australian values

Australians are often described as friendly, down-to-earth, optimistic and resourceful. A sense of mateship and the belief in a 'fair-go' have underscored the Australian character for decades. Australian values based on respect, equality and freedom are central to the success of our nation, and provide the foundation for Australia's prosperity, social cohesion, and a shared future in which everyone belongs.

All of Australia's States and Territories had abolished the death penalty by 1985 (the last execution took place in 1967), and Australia is committed to working towards universal abolition of the death penalty.



MARRIAGE EQUALITY

In 2017, Australians voted in favour of marriage equality via a postal survey. On 7 December 2017, the Australian Parliament passed legislation

guaranteeing marriage equality in Australia, with the right to marry in Australia no longer determined by sex or gender as of 9 December 2017. Marriage is defined in the Marriage Act 1961 (Cth) as the 'union of 2 people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life'.

TOWARDS 2023 WORLD PRIDE

Australia won the hosting rights for 2023 World Pride, to be held in Sydney to mark the 45th anniversary of the first Mardi Gras Parade and 50th Anniversary of Australian Gay Pride Week.



Digital connectivity

Digital connectivity is important in a land as large and sophisticated as Australia. Australia has well developed mobile and fixed line infrastructure for Internet, voice and other services.

Australia's rollout of the National Broadband Network (NBN) is providing Australians with access to high speed, reliable broadband wherever they live or work. The NBN is supporting innovation, productivity and inclusion, with benefits for small businesses, self-employed people and remote and regional communities.

The NBN has also helped Australia create a thriving and competitive telecommunications market. Over 99 per cent of Australia's population has mobile coverage and Australian mobile phone services have some of the fastest download speeds over 4G in the world³¹. All major mobile network operators have launched 5G services, further enhancing connectivity.

 **The NBN has also helped Australia create a thriving and competitive telecommunications market.**

Media and communications

Australia has two national broadcasters, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), which tell Australian stories and reflect the diversity and culture of Australia's unique and multicultural society. Founded in 1929, the ABC provides television, radio and online services across the country, broadcasting news, weather, entertainment, and sport. ABC's acclaimed youth radio, Triple J, hosts the 'world's largest music democracy', the annual Triple J Hottest 100, and discovers rising Australian musical talent through their 'Unearthed' music program.

SBS broadcasts programs in English and a range of other languages, and covers news from all over the world. SBS also manages the National Indigenous Television channel (NITV), which broadcasts programs produced primarily by Australia's Indigenous peoples.



Major tourism destination

The beauty of Australia's natural landscapes, from pristine coastal areas to lush rainforests and red deserts, makes Australia one of the most desirable travel destinations in the world. Over nine million visitors came to Australia in 2019, attracted by world-class food and wine, beautiful beaches, unique nature and wildlife, safety and security, friendly people and a relaxed atmosphere.

The 2019/2020 summer bushfires followed immediately by COVID-19 have had a devastating impact on many Australian communities that rely on tourism³². Many businesses in affected areas are still operating, and buying from these communities has a huge impact on helping families and the local economy to bounce back. A ‘buy from the bush’ movement is encouraging consumers and tourists to purchase items from those affected even from afar, and is one way to connect with the magic of Australia before visiting in person.

Tourism is one of Australia's largest export industries, with international visitors to Australia spending \$44.6 billion in 2018-19, up 5 per cent on the previous year. The industry directly employs over 666,000 people. With 43 cents in every tourism dollar spent in regional areas, tourism is important to both metropolitan and rural communities.

In 2018-19, the greatest number of tourists came from China, followed by New Zealand, the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan and Singapore. Around 58 per cent of all spending by tourists in Australia was by Asian visitors, and that market is continuing to grow.

Holiday and education travel are the largest contributors to tourism spend, collectively generating two-thirds of Australia's international travel receipts. Half of all holiday travellers to Australia were first-time visitors³³.

The top reasons for visitors choosing Australia were:



Source: Tourism Research Australia³⁴

Great Barrier Reef, Queensland

Australia's international visitors 2018-19³⁵

Rank	Economy	Number of visitors	% change on 2017-18
1	China	143,300	0.8%
2	New Zealand	140,700	2.6%
3	United States	81,200	3.1%
4	United Kingdom	71,900	-3.2%
5	Japan	48,400	9.5%

Rank	Economy	Number of visitors	% change on 2017-18
6	Singapore	46,500	7.4%
7	Malaysia	38,900	-1.1%
8	India	37,200	11.1%
9	Hong Kong	31,000	3.7%
10	Republic of Korea	28,100	-7.8%

📍 Sydney Harbour, New South Wales



Environment and wildlife

Australia is a land like no other – it is one of 17 megadiverse countries that together account for almost 70 per cent of the world's species. More than 80 per cent of Australia's mammals, reptiles, frogs and flowering plants are unique to Australia, along with many of its freshwater fish and almost half its birds. There are more than 140 species of marsupials (animals that carry their young in a pouch), including kangaroos, koalas, wombats and the Tasmanian devil. Australia's national reserve system covers 19.74 per cent of Australia's land mass – more than 151 million hectares across 12,000 properties, including habitats from lush rainforests to savannahs and deserts. The UNESCO World-Heritage listed Gondwana Rainforests of Australia area contains some of

the world's oldest ferns and conifers, and many plants and animals remain relatively unchanged from their ancestors in the fossil record – making Australia one of the few places on earth with such a remarkable living history³⁶. Oceans are a significant part of Australia's national identity and source of immense diverse marine biodiversity. Australia has the world's largest representative network of marine protected areas (covering 37 per cent of our waters) and Australia is responsible for managing over 17 per cent of the world's coral reefs. By 2025, Australia's marine industries will contribute around \$100 billion each year to our economy, with oceans and coasts providing a further \$25 billion worth of benefits to human wellbeing.



Pictured: New Holland Honeyeater

AUSTRALIA STRETCHES ACROSS 4,000 KILOMETRES (2,485 MILES)

Australia stretches across an incredible 4,000 kilometres (2,485 miles), which is roughly the same distance as New York to Los Angeles, London to Tehran, Bangkok to Tokyo, Singapore to New Delhi or Hong Kong to Mumbai.

A leading Antarctic nation

Australia drives international efforts to preserve Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science.

Australia takes great pride in its role, with around 80 scientists and staff living and working on Australia's Antarctic stations during winter, with this number increasing to 200 during summer. Australia's Antarctic research program contributes to understanding Antarctica's unique environmental systems and protecting it for future generations.



The flags fly in Antarctica during National Reconciliation Week 2018. Image courtesy of Darren Shoobridge.

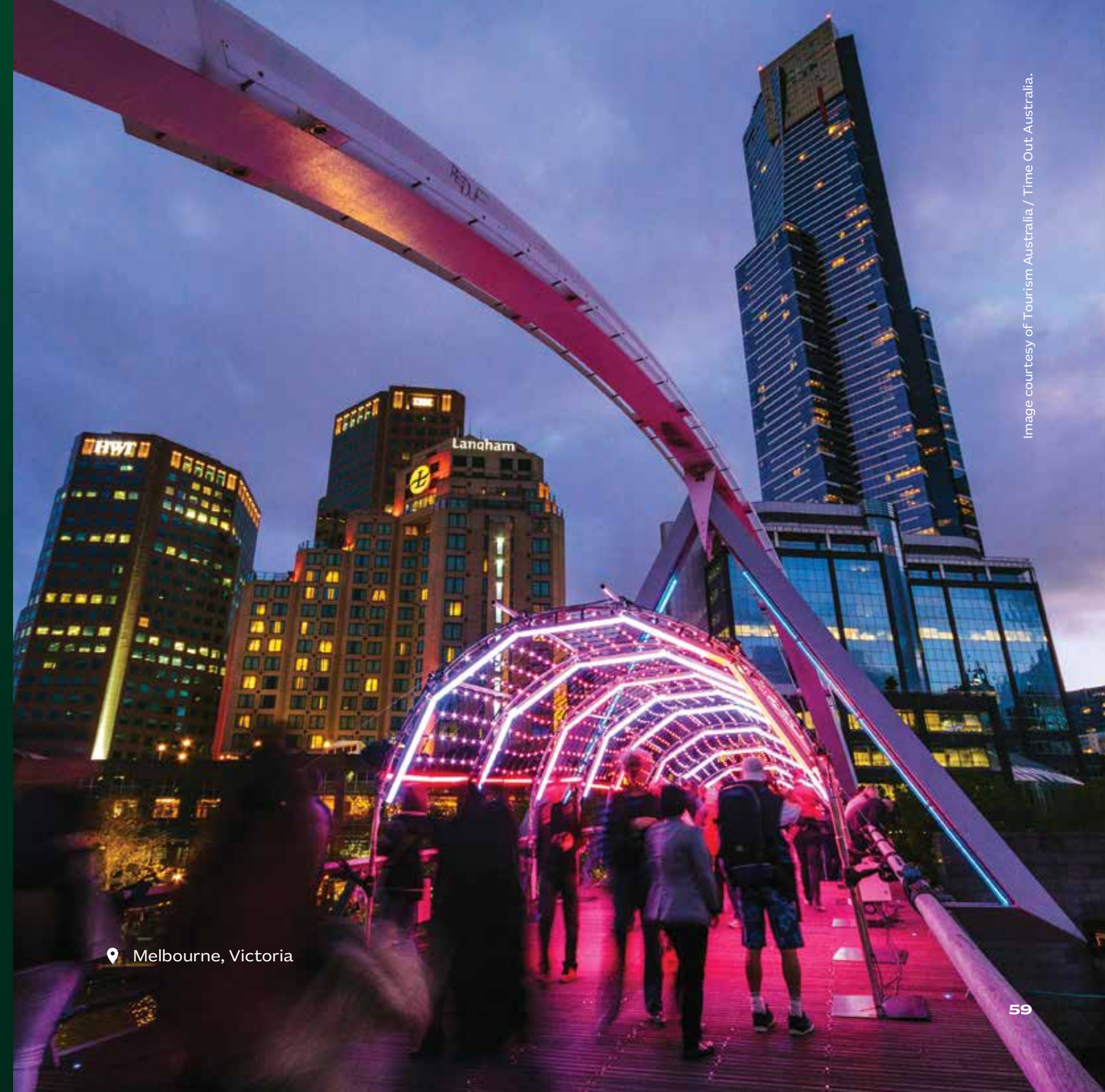
STRONG AND OPEN ECONOMY

Economy

The scale of the public health response to COVID-19, and associated halt on economic activity, has had a dramatic effect on the Australian economy and society. But compared to our major trading partners, Australia has shown great resilience, underwritten by significant government support and ongoing demand for some of our largest commodity exports. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Australian Government has committed over \$267 billion (13.5 per cent of GDP) in direct economic and health support, with over \$186.5 billion having flowed to Australian households and businesses as of December 2020³⁷.

The International Monetary Fund and OECD have applauded the government's sizable and swift fiscal response. Credit ratings agencies have noted Australia's enviable position of being able to respond meaningfully without endangering debt sustainability.

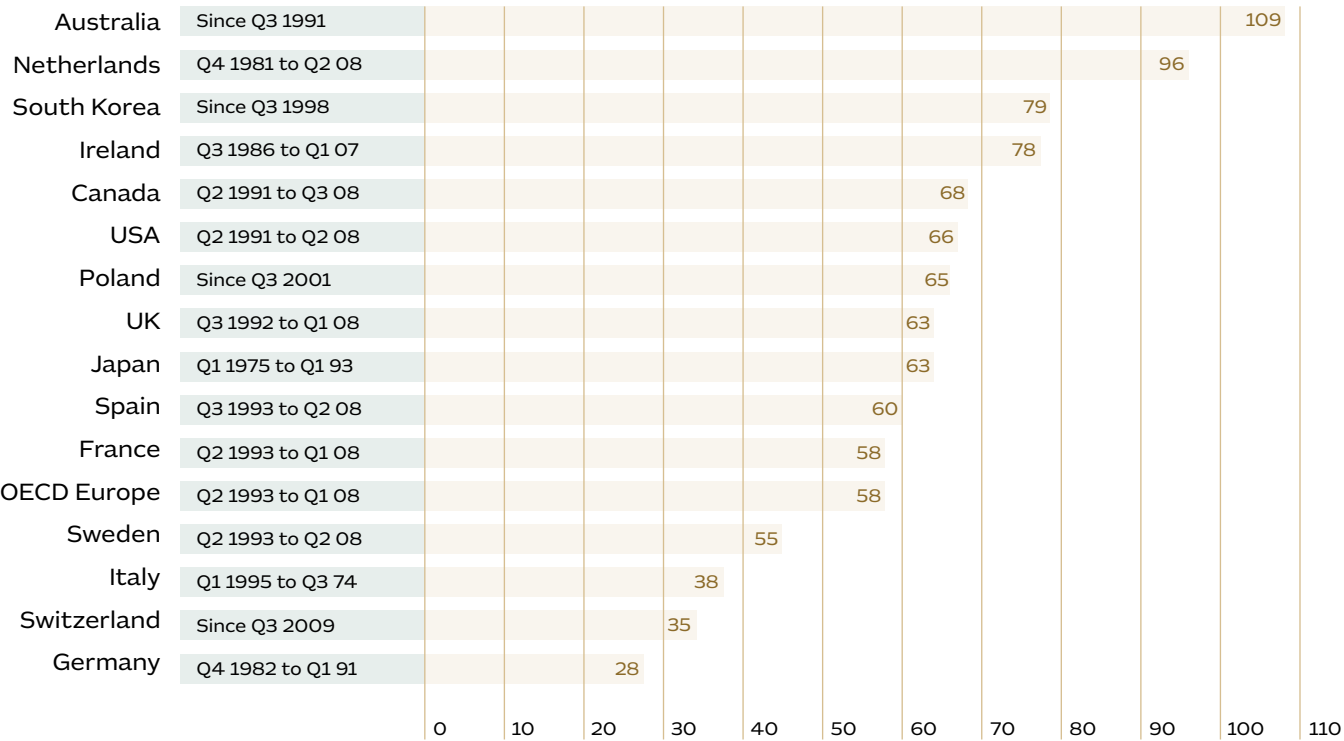
Australia entered the COVID-19 crisis from a position of strength. Up to the onset of the crisis, the Australian economy remained strong and diverse, recording 28 consecutive years of annual economic growth. Australians enjoy among the highest living standards in the world. Despite being home to only 0.3 per cent of the global population, Australia was the world's 14th largest economy in 2019³⁸.



📍 Melbourne, Victoria

The longest period of continuous annual growth among developed economies

Number of quarters with positive quarter-on-quarter % growth



Source: OECD³⁹



Australia’s domestic economic settings aim to promote a more competitive, flexible and resilient economy. In its international economic engagement, Australia aims to build greater prosperity for Australia and the world.

Australia’s economic and commercial diplomacy efforts are a priority for our diplomatic network, which is focused on promoting investment, addressing non-tariff barriers to trade, providing support to businesses, advocating for the global rules-based system and increasing science, technology and innovation links.

Trade and investment at a glance⁴⁰

1 IN 5
jobs rely on trade

1 IN 7
jobs rely on exports

GDP in 2019-20 was valued at

\$2 TRILLION

Since 1992, the Australian economy has grown faster than any other major developed country

To September 2020

**SIX SUCCESSIVE
CURRENT ACCOUNT
SURPLUSES**

continuing the first return to surplus since 1975

Record trade in 2019-20

\$873 BILLION

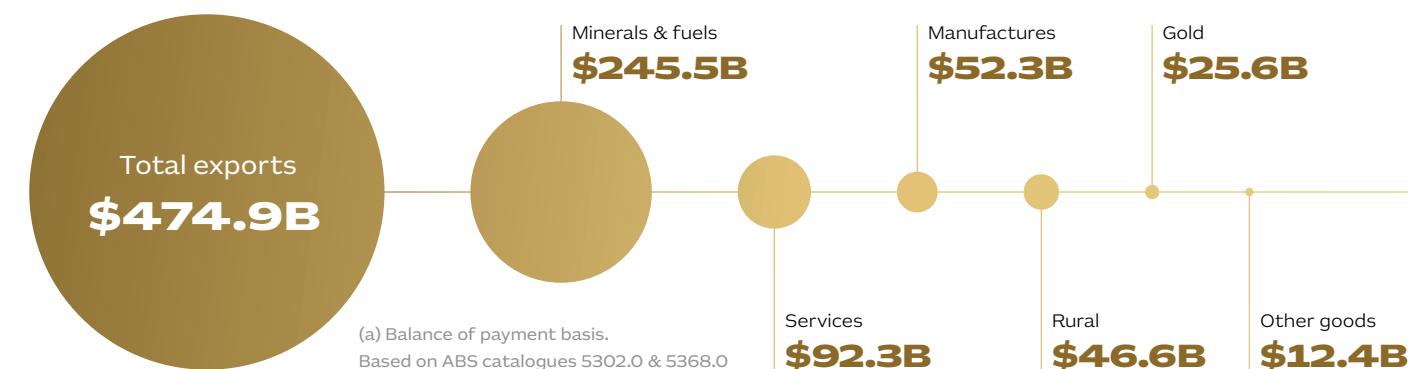
Record exports in 2019-20

\$475 BILLION

\$77 BILLION

trade surplus in 2019-20, an Australian record

Australia's exports by sector 2019-20



Australia exported \$474 billion worth of goods in 2019-20. This represented an increase of 2.4% per cent from the previous year⁴¹.

The minerals and fuels sector made the greatest contribution to Australia's exports in 2019-20.

Australia has developed a competitive edge in a range of goods and services, from high-technology products such as medical and scientific equipment through to high-quality wine and processed food. Major services exports include education, tourism, professional and technical services, and telecommunication, computer and information services.

Indigenous Procurement Policy

Australia's Indigenous Procurement Policy puts Indigenous businesses front and centre in the way the Commonwealth Government does business. Whether through direct contracts, or as part of the supply chain of some of Australia's biggest companies, the policy ensures that Indigenous businesses have the chance to compete and showcase the products they have to offer. It creates opportunities for Indigenous businesses to grow and employ more people and to stimulate private investment in new Indigenous businesses.

Trading partners

Australia’s top ten trading partners in 2019-20 were China, the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Singapore, New Zealand, India, Germany and Malaysia.

China remained Australia’s largest two-way trading partner in 2019-20 and was Australia’s largest export market and import source.

Two-way trade with China surged past \$250 million, more than double the second ranked trading partner, the United States. While COVID-19 resulted in some trade disruption with our major partners, Australia’s top two-way trading markets remain largely within the Indo-Pacific region.

\$ million	China	United States	Japan	Republic of Korea	United Kingdom
Goods	232.3	55.3	73.0	36.4	22.7
Services	18.6	25.3	6.1	2.3	13.9
Total	251.0	80.7	79.1	38.8	31.2
% share	28.8	9.2	9.1	4.5	4.2

Based on ABS trade data on DFAT STARS database (yet to be published)⁴²



Free Trade Agreements⁴³

Australia has an ambitious and active approach to negotiating, implementing and reviewing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Australia has FTAs with most of its top trading partners, including agreements with: New Zealand, Singapore, the United States, Thailand, Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Korea, Japan, China, Canada, Mexico, Hong Kong and Peru.

The Australian Government is currently undertaking free trade agreement negotiations with the European Union, United Kingdom and others. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s FTA Portal is updated to include information on new free trade agreements as they come into force and can be found at: www.ftaportal.dfat.gov.au

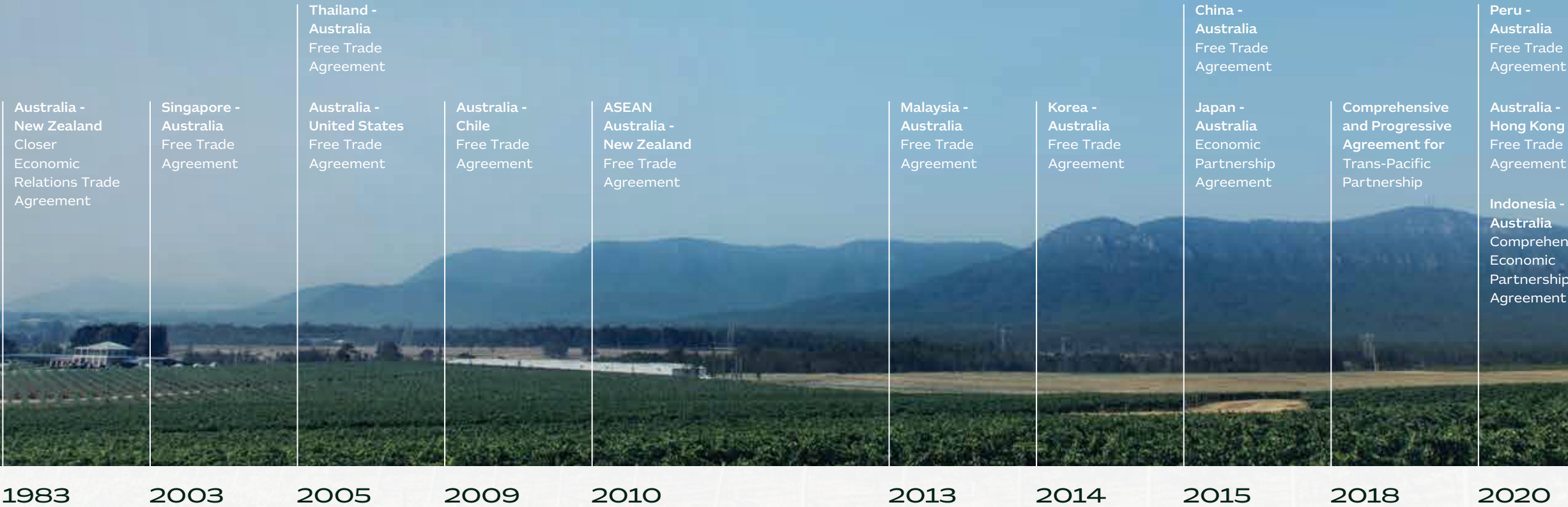




Image courtesy of Tourism Australia.

Foreign investment

Foreign investment remains integral to the Australian economy, making Australia more prosperous through financing new industries, boosting infrastructure and productivity, opening export markets, stimulating economic activity and creating jobs. Foreign investment also enables the transfer of new technologies to Australia, and aids in building Australia's innovation potential. The stock of total foreign investment in Australia was \$3.8 trillion at the end of 2019⁴⁴.

Throughout 2019-20, Australia continued to attract and retain high levels of foreign direct investment due to its stable democracy backed by the rule of law, a skilled workforce connected with Asian markets, and network of FTAs and policies that create an enabling environment for commercially driven business decisions. During global economic recovery, these same features make Australia an attractive location to invest.

Why Australia

Australia's AAA sovereign risk profile, security, and location at the nexus of East and West make it an ideal partner for trade, investment and collaboration. Australia offers a powerful combination of plentiful natural resources and a sophisticated services sector backed by a highly educated labour force. Its ability to adapt to change and instability in the global economy has enabled Australia to achieve success across a range of industries.

Australia is renowned for its resources sector, upon which Asia continues to rely to help fuel its industrialisation. The nation's agricultural commodities and premium food are in high demand by global consumers, as are its tourism, education, wealth management, healthcare and professional services. As a leading education provider, Australia attracts students and talent from around the world to its globally ranked universities and research and development institutions.

Multinational companies can benefit from Australia's network of FTAs, strong business and cultural ties with Asia, and longstanding trade, investment and research links with Europe and North America.

Australia's growing social enterprise network also makes Australia an attractive location for socially responsible business. In 2019, the Thomson Reuters Foundation found Australia to be the second best country in which to be a social entrepreneur in the world⁴⁵, and governments at all levels are developing social procurement policy to use buying power to generate social value above and beyond the value of goods, services or construction being procured⁴⁶. This fits within Australia's ethos as an innovative nation where social, economic and environmental sustainability go hand-in-hand.

An assembly of motorised mirrors at Central Park Mall, New South Wales, captures sunlight and directs the rays down onto gardens.



Innovation and technology

Innovation drives Australian enterprise, science and research sectors, as well as our response to global crises, and is a priority of the Australian Government. Australia has developed and implemented a National Innovation and Science Agenda that supports smart ideas to create business growth, local jobs and global success. Emerging technologies are making an impact across Australia’s economy and society, and are being embraced by Australian businesses of different sizes, across different sectors.

The government recognises the importance of international collaboration for innovation, science and research and has produced a guide to showcase opportunities to invest in and collaborate with Australia:

www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/partnering-with-australia-on-innovation-science-and-research

Australia’s innovation credentials

1ST

Ranked 1st for technological readiness

TOP 1%

CSIRO ranks in the top 1% of the world’s scientific institutions in 14 of 22 research fields

3RD

Highest number of universities in the world’s top 100

50%

About 50% of Australian firms are innovation-active

5TH

Ranked 5th for global entrepreneurship

44%

Around 44% of Australia’s workforce has a tertiary qualification

Source: Austrade Benchmark Report 2020, page 31.⁴⁷

Australia’s tech credentials

629 FINTECH STARTUPS

US\$800 million invested across 28 deals (2018)
Seven fintech companies in the world’s top 100

350 EDTECH COMPANIES

1,100 online education providers
A\$1.7 billion edtech market by 2022
Fastest-growing startup sector
Second largest startup vertical after fintech

Source: Austrade Benchmark Report 2020, page 17.⁴⁸

500 MEDTECH COMPANIES

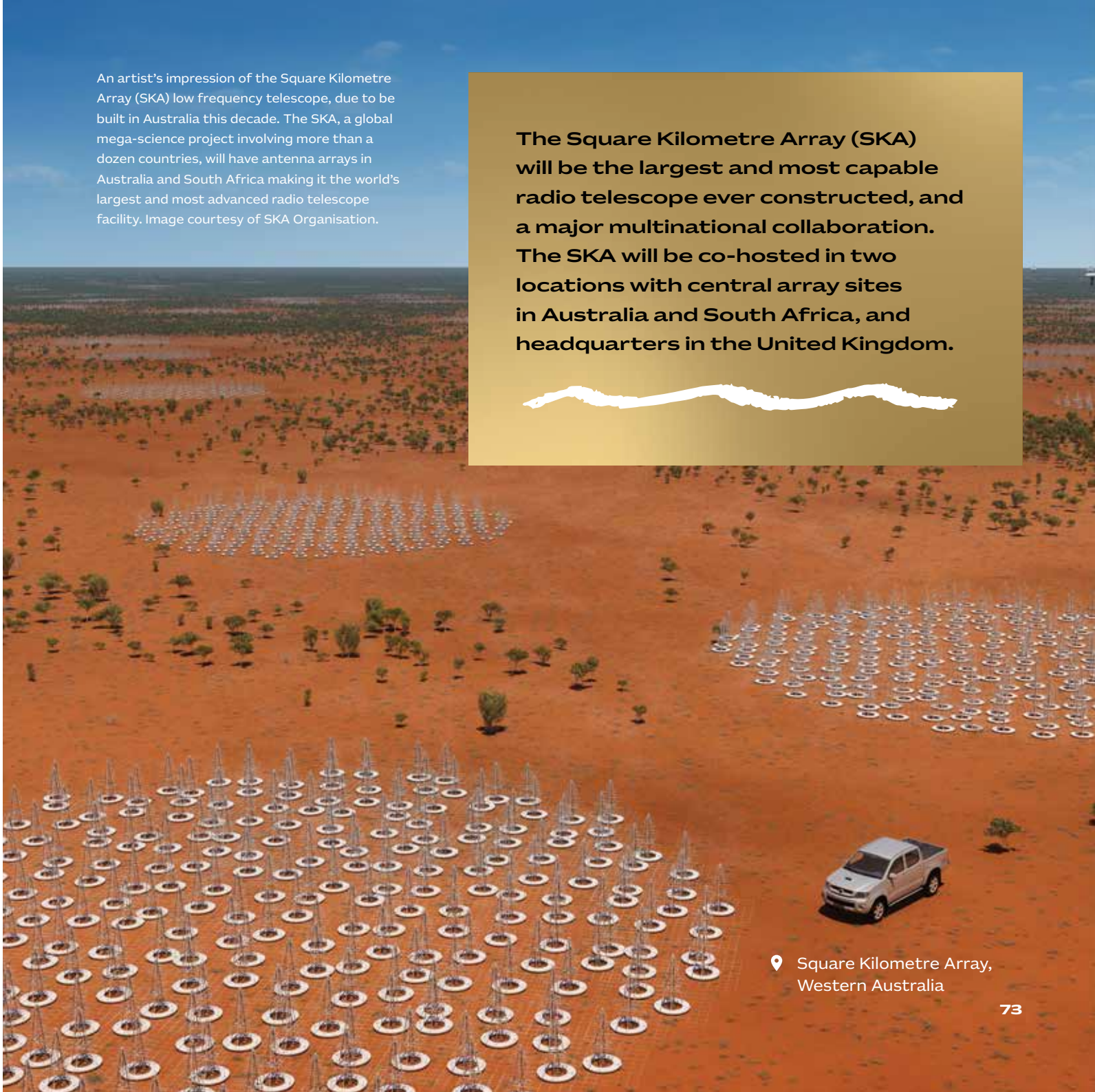
US\$1.8 billion digital health market
World top 20 for medtech patents

400 AGTECH & FOODTECH COMPANIES

15 agtech incubators / accelerators
A\$90.4 million invested in Australian agtech sector (2019)
A\$800 million invested annually through 15 rural R&D corporations
A\$20 billion lift in industry value

An artist’s impression of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) low frequency telescope, due to be built in Australia this decade. The SKA, a global mega-science project involving more than a dozen countries, will have antenna arrays in Australia and South Africa making it the world’s largest and most advanced radio telescope facility. Image courtesy of SKA Organisation.

The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) will be the largest and most capable radio telescope ever constructed, and a major multinational collaboration. The SKA will be co-hosted in two locations with central array sites in Australia and South Africa, and headquarters in the United Kingdom.



📍 Square Kilometre Array, Western Australia

World-leading research

Australia has a vibrant research community working to address global challenges in health, social cohesion, the environment, the economy and security. Australian research drives ideas that create business growth, local jobs and global success.

In 2018, 90 per cent of research disciplines at universities were rated at world standard or above in the State of Australian University Research 2018–19: ERA National Report (ERA 2018 National Report). Australia’s world-class university research is delivering life-changing outcomes for people in Australia and abroad, as demonstrated by the Engagement and Impact Assessment 2018-19 National Report (EI National Report 2018).

In addition, the EI National Report, together with more than 200 examples of highly significant research impacts published on the Australian Research Council (ARC) website, shows the extensive and diverse ways that Australian universities collaborate with partners at home and overseas.

Recent ARC-supported research breakthroughs:

- The world’s speediest quantum operation
- Development of non-combustible cladding for buildings

- An Australian research vehicle that can dive under the Antarctic ice shelf
- Collaboration in the first detection of gravitational waves
- Bananas bred to be resistant to deadly Panama disease
- Research that helps to tell Indigenous songlines
- 65,000 years identified as the new oldest date for human habitation in Australia
- A ‘Smart needle’ to make brain surgery safer
- The world’s first 3D-printed jet engine
- The nanopatch—needle free immunisation technology

The Australian Government is making a significant investment in science and research in Australia, investing up to \$9.6 billion in 2020 alone. Of this, the Australian Research Council (ARC) will award over \$3 billion in funding over four years through competitive research grants to university research projects, many with a strong emphasis on industry collaboration.

16 AUSTRALIANS
have won Nobel Prizes, half of them in Physiology or Medicine.



QUANTUM COMPUTING RESEARCH

2018 Australian of the Year, ARC Laureate Professor Michelle Simmons, heads up the \$33 million ARC Centre of Excellence for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology CQC2T, which has positioned itself at the forefront of Quantum Computing research in the world today. The Centre represents the best in blue-sky research, with a firm eye on the commercial goal of a working prototype of a quantum computer. The Centre has attracted considerable industry support as well as \$25 million through the Australian Government’s National Innovation and Science Agenda.

Image courtesy of Centre of Excellence for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology.

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

As Australia’s national science agency and innovation catalyst, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is solving the greatest global challenges through innovative science and technology, for example by ending plastic waste by reinventing the way plastic is made, processed and recycled. CSIRO is Australia’s most trusted research institution and most connected innovator, working with every Australian university, government department and major Australian industry. CSIRO works in over 80 countries and is ranked in the top one per cent of world scientific institutions in 13 of 22 research fields.

CSIRO’s collaborative research turns science into solutions for food security and quality, clean energy and resources, health and wellbeing, resilient and valuable environments, innovative industries, and a secure Australia and region.

CSIRO is one of the largest and most multidisciplinary mission-driven research agencies in the world. For the past hundred years, CSIRO has been pushing the limits of science and technology to make life better for Australians. CSIRO is preparing for the next hundred by supporting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs in schools, accelerators and investment for science spin-outs, and growth programs in businesses of all sizes.

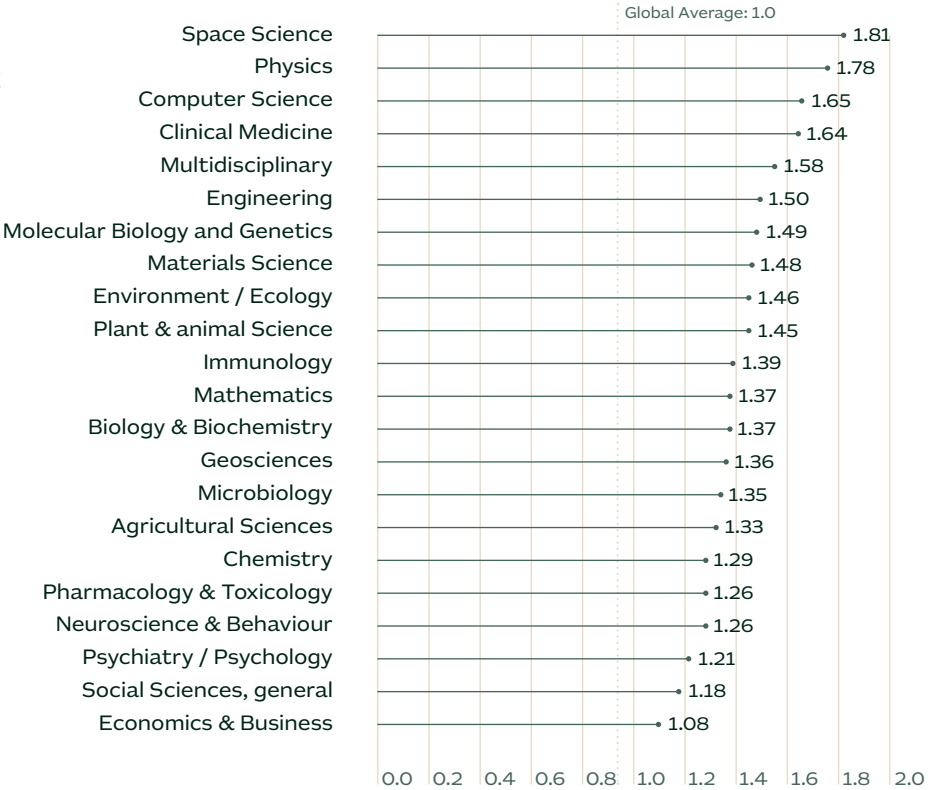


CSIRO has 3,600 patents, 300 licenses, over 170 spin-out companies and 57 offices throughout Australia and overseas

Relative impacts of Australian scientific publications by research field

2014-18

Source: Austrade Benchmark Report 2020, page 35⁴⁹



Renewable energy

Australia has some of the best wind and solar resources in the world, and remains committed to sustainable and renewable energy solutions. We are building and investing in renewables at record levels.

In 2019, Australia deployed new renewable energy ten times faster per capita than the global average. Today, renewables are expected to contribute 23 per cent of our electricity sent out in 2020 and 50 per cent by 2030.

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) provide research, development and deployment grants, as well as debt and equity funding, driving innovation in renewables and clean energy. The CEFC is the world's largest public owned 'Green Bank', which has committed more than \$8.6 billion and led to investment in clean energy projects worth almost \$29.7 billion⁵⁰.

Over 2.3 million small-scale solar photovoltaic systems (< 100 kilowatts in capacity) have been installed in Australia. This includes commercial-scale behind-the-meter systems.



📍 Blayney, New South Wales

Australia as a low emissions technology leader

Australia is focused on advancing practical, scalable and commercially viable technologies to drive the global transition to net-zero. Australia's Technology Investment Roadmap will drive down the cost of low emissions technologies and accelerate their deployment, both in Australia and overseas. In September 2020, Australia released our first Low Emissions Technology Statement that sets ambitious but realistic stretch goals to drive down the cost of low emissions technologies to economic parity with existing mature technologies. Through our technology investments, Australia is supporting global efforts to reduce emissions and providing our global partners the clean energy exports they need to transition to low emission economies.

**AUSTRALIA HAS THE
WORLD'S HIGHEST
LEVEL OF UPTAKE OF
HOUSEHOLD SOLAR⁵¹**
at one in four Australian homes.

Hydrogen Strategy

Australia is positioning to be a global leader in hydrogen production and is driving investments to support the growth of a clean, innovative, safe and competitive Australian hydrogen industry. In 2019, Australia released our National Hydrogen Strategy, which was agreed by all Australian governments and sets out the path to grow Australia's hydrogen industry to 2030 and beyond. The Government has now committed over half a billion dollars to the development of hydrogen in Australia, including \$70.2 million for a hydrogen export hub (announced September 2020).

Mining and resources

With abundant resources, skilled professionals and cutting-edge technology, Australia is a leader in the global mining industry and is among the largest producers of bauxite, iron and zinc ore, nickel, lithium, rare earths, and gold. Australia is also a major supplier of energy resources, including coal, natural gas and uranium.

In 2019-20, the mining sector accounted for 10.9 per cent of Australia's GDP and minerals and fuels accounted for 51.7 per cent of Australia's goods and services exports⁵². The scale of Australia's resources industry has helped the country become a world leader in the development and manufacture of mining equipment, technology and services. Australian firms are competitive across the supply chain, including in exploration, engineering, processing, environmental management, mine safety, training, and research and development.

The Australian mining and resource sectors are significant growing players in the field of global renewable energy production, contributing to the development and supply of battery technology, photovoltaic cells and more⁵³.

CSIRO's Dr Michael Dolan, a leader in renewable hydrogen technology.



AUSTRALIA AND THE WORLD

International engagement

Australia continues to work towards an open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. Australia's alliance with the United States and deep bilateral engagement with India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Vietnam remain paramount, as does our important relationship with China.

Australia enjoys strong ties with New Zealand and the UK and has significant links with partners in the Pacific, Southeast Asia and Europe. Australia remains committed to multilateralism, working collaboratively to promote free trade, address global challenges and support the rules-based international order.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



Indo-Pacific engagement

The Indo-Pacific region is vital to Australia's security and prosperity. The region encompasses Australia's Pacific family, our close neighbours, our United States ally, and our other major strategic and trading partners. Amid a profound shift in economic and strategic weight in the region, and as countries recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Australia's interests lie in an open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific. Our core foreign policy objective is to ensure our region evolves peacefully and without an erosion of the fundamental principles on which the Indo-Pacific's prosperity and cooperative relations are based.

Australia's agenda for the Indo-Pacific includes promoting rules and norms to guide peaceful cooperation and regional economic integration on the basis of open markets. Helping countries in our region overcome the health, social and economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis has been a major focus of our development assistance. Australia is working to support the strong engagement by our United States ally in the economic

and security affairs of the Indo-Pacific, while working more closely than ever before with key partners such as India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Vietnam.

Placing the Pacific at the centre of Australia's foreign policy, the Pacific Step-up is lifting Australia's engagement in, and partnership with, our region to help grow economies, build resilience and enhance regional stability. We are also pursuing a constructive relationship with China, whereby we can maintain our substantial trade and wider ties, while managing differences.

Australia is building resilience and leading collaboration on issues such as cyber security, counter-terrorism, infrastructure development and maritime security in the Indo-Pacific. We are working to strengthen regional institutions by deepening our engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the East Asia Summit (EAS).

Rules-based international order

Australia is strongly committed to maintaining a rules-based international order that advances the interests of all nations and peoples. Australia plays an active role in an array of global and regional groups and agencies key to security, stability and prosperity, including the:

UNITED NATIONS (UN)

**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION (WTO)**

**ASIA–PACIFIC ECONOMIC
COOPERATION (APEC)**

**ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST
ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)**

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM (PIF)

EAST ASIA SUMMIT (EAS)

**INDIAN OCEAN RIM
ASSOCIATION (IORA)**

**GROUP OF TWENTY (G20)
MAJOR ECONOMIES**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT (OECD)**

**INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL
COURT (ICC)**

WORLD BANK

**COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN
TREATY ORGANISATION (CTBTO)**

**COMMISSION FOR THE
ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)**

Engagement in the rules-based multilateral trading system, regional trade forums, and free trade agreements sustain Australian economic prosperity and stability.

As a founding member of key international organisations – including the UN – guiding international peace, security and trade, Australia plays a constructive role shaping and maintaining international laws (treaties and conventions) that support our national interests. Australia most recently served as an elected member of the UN Security Council in 2013-14 and on the UN Human Rights Council for the 2018-20 term.

Within the Commonwealth, Australia is an active member, participating at Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings and supporting the Commonwealth to promote human rights, democratic norms and good governance among member countries.



International development cooperation

Australia is a longstanding supporter of development cooperation and we have worked around the world and in our region for decades to support economic growth and reduce poverty.

With economies, jobs, education and health systems being disrupted by the effects of COVID-19, Australia's development cooperation has pivoted under a new policy framework, *Partnerships for Recovery*. We are focusing our development cooperation efforts on health systems, maintaining social stability and stimulating economic recovery as the key pillars of support. The policy firmly targets our region, and our nearest neighbours because Australia recognises that the growth, openness and stability of the Indo-Pacific, which has underpinned Australia's prosperity and security for decades, is at risk.

These priorities will also include a focus on supporting the most vulnerable, including women and girls, people with disabilities, and those living in poverty. This continues Australia's longstanding leadership in these areas of development cooperation, where we know our support and cooperation with partners has had the greatest impact.

Importantly, Australia's *Partnerships for Recovery* policy takes a Whole of Government approach, so that we ensure our development cooperation efforts work in alignment with the full suite of our national capabilities.

These include diplomacy, defence, security, commercial links, scientific skill, our advocacy in multilateral fora and people-to-people ties to address the challenges of COVID-19 in the Indo-Pacific.



Australia's response builds on our existing Pacific Step-up, which has strengthened our cooperation in helping to grow economies, build resilience, and enhance regional stability. Across Southeast Asia, we are refocusing our development partnerships to enable support for communities, critical services, and to help mitigate economic impacts. In Indonesia, we are working to build stronger systems to respond to public health threats through

our new Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership. Australia's support for, and partnership with, our neighbours is essential for our regional health security and our long-term interests.

Australia will continue to monitor the response and recovery across the region, and adjust our international development cooperation policy settings as the situation improves.

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

In 2019-20, Australia provided \$4 billion in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing nations. This includes \$1.4 billion to the Pacific, Australia's highest ever level of ODA investment in the region, and approximately \$1 billion to Southeast Asia⁵⁴.

Students from Fasi Moi Afi Government primary school take a drink break during the Just Play program which is funded by the Australian Government. Image courtesy of Connor Ashleigh.



Image courtesy of Tourism Australia.

An enterprising spirit

Australian development cooperation also supports innovative entrepreneurs across Asia and the Pacific to deliver better products and services to communities using new technologies. The Australian Government is funding drones to track changes to island coastlines in Samoa and Tonga, and a health data platform to improve access to health care and medical facilities in the Pacific region.

Australia's own science, technology and research is being applied to address issues globally like mosquito-borne disease prevention and food security and agricultural productivity.



Students in IT class at The Hohola Youth Development Centre.
Image courtesy of Ness Kerton.



Pacific Island Food Revolution

Pacific Island Food Revolution is a reality TV series and multimedia campaign that is encouraging healthy eating across the Pacific. Teams compete to create easy, delicious and healthy dishes, filmed in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The show is broadcast to over 24 stations across the Pacific as well as in Australia and New Zealand. Since its launch, Pacific Island Food Revolution has attracted a steady following of more than 22,000 on Facebook.

Early research indicates that the program is having a positive impact - especially among women - with a significant increase in preference for healthy food options.

The initiative is co-funded by Australia and New Zealand to help Pacific island countries reduce their high rates of chronic illnesses, including diabetes, high blood pressure and coronary diseases.



A Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade official along with staff at the Nadi International Airport, Fiji oversee the offloading of Australian humanitarian aid stores from a RAAF C17A Globemaster aircraft. Image courtesy of Department of Defence.

Australia has responded swiftly to COVID-19 in the Pacific and Timor-Leste by supporting national and regional health measures.

Australia deployed health experts, including to the World Health Organization regional office in Fiji and the Solomon Islands Ministry of Health. We provided personal protective equipment and medical supplies to 23 countries and territories, provided critical support for the establishment of an isolation centre in Timor-Leste, and provided rapid financial support to Pacific island governments to maintain essential services.

Australia supported Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste to more effectively detect and prevent the spread of disease, including through new rapid diagnostic tests and working with local organisations to raise awareness of hygiene and prevention measures.

Defence and security

Australia works closely with other countries to promote security and stability in the immediate region as well as globally.

Australia's response to security challenges – such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, cyber threats, maritime security, weak and failing states, and emerging security threats such as climate change and global pandemics – is multi-dimensional, with many areas of government playing a role.

A versatile and modern defence force, strong bilateral links and an ongoing commitment to a rules-based international order and the UN are all key elements of Australia's approach.

Bilaterally, the alliance with the United States remains vital. Long-term links with New Zealand and robust defence and security ties with India, Indonesia, Japan and the Republic of Korea are essential in pursuing common strategic interests.

Australia also has longstanding and valuable defence ties with Malaysia, Papua New Guinea,

Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Recently, Australia has taken steps towards growing its relationships with Brunei and Vietnam. Australia maintains productive defence ties with China.

Australia continues extensive Defence Cooperation Programs with Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and other Pacific island countries. Through these programs, Australia, Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste strengthen regional stability and security.

Regionally and multilaterally, Australia continues to work with others to address traditional and non-traditional security issues. Australia is a significant non-NATO contributor to the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan. As of 31 January 2020, Australia had contributed US\$600 million to the Afghan National Army Trust Fund to assist the country in building its security capacity. Australia is a leader in global efforts for non-proliferation and disarmament, and counter-terrorism.



Flight Lieutenant Mathew Roberts is an Indigenous Liaison Officer from No. 26 Squadron at RAAF Base Williamtown, New South Wales. He stands next to the F/A-18A "Worimi" Hornet painted with Indigenous artwork in honour of the Worimi people. Image courtesy of Department of Defence.

Ongoing peace operations⁵⁵

Since 1947, more than 65,000 Australians have served in more than 50 peace and security operations around the world.

In its own neighbourhood, Australia has helped build peace in regional missions in Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (Papua New Guinea). Australia's peacekeeping activities are often an expression of

its regional partnerships, such as the provision of strategic airlifts and English language training for Vietnamese peacekeepers.

As the nature of peace operations has evolved, so too has Australia's contribution, with an increasing focus on policing and civilian components. Australia supports nations through practical training, equipment, infrastructure, and transport to build their capabilities and national institutions.

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEM

Giving Australian children bright futures

The Australian education system comprises early childhood education, schooling, vocational education and training (VET), higher education and international education. School education in Australia includes preschool, preparatory (or kindergarten), primary school, secondary school (or high school) and senior secondary school (or college). Schooling lasts for 13 years, from preparatory to senior secondary. School is compulsory until at least the age of 16. In the senior secondary years, students can study for their Senior Secondary Certificate of Education.

📍 Macquarie University, New South Wales



Australia's VET system provides high-quality, nationally recognised training, based on strong partnerships between governments, vocational education and training institutions and industry bodies. This ensures that VET qualifications provide the skills that employers and industry need now and into the future.

The Australian higher education sector includes both private and public universities and other higher education institutions that play a critical role in research – fuelling innovation, driving productivity and giving students the skills they need

for future success. Australia has an established reputation for its high quality education and training system that is the foundation to the success of its world-class graduates.

Australia has a national policy for regulated qualifications across schools, VET and higher education institutions, through the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). For more information on the AQF, see www.aqf.edu.au

Additionally, for more information about the Australian education system, visit www.studyinaustralia.gov.au

More than half of Australia's universities are listed in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2019) and six are in the top 100⁵⁶

Australia's two largest cities, Melbourne and Sydney, were ranked among the top 10 best student cities in the world according to the QS World University Rankings.

Education is Australia's largest services export

Australia's education sector encompasses a network of world-leading education providers, premium facilities, outstanding lecturers and extensive student support services. Australia offers a diverse range of study options for international students, with more than 1,100 institutions and over 22,000 courses⁵⁷.

Education is Australia's largest services export. In 2020, more than 725,000 international students (excluding New Zealand students) were studying and living in Australia, adding \$38.4 billion to the Australian economy in 2019-20⁵⁸.

Students from China comprised 25.8 per cent of all international students in Australia, the highest of any nationality. India was second, contributing 16.8 per cent and Nepal third with 8.1 per cent.

University of Technology, Sydney

New Colombo Plan

The New Colombo Plan (NCP) is a flagship initiative of the Australian Government providing opportunities for Australian undergraduate students to study and undertake internships in 40 locations throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

The plan aims to lift knowledge of the Indo-Pacific region in Australia, build leadership skills, foster people-to-people links and further develop business and institutional relationships. The program extends regional engagement across Australian society and supports thousands of students each year through student mobility grants and scholarships that foster a new generation of Australian leaders.

Together, NCP scholarships and mobility grants have a measurably positive impact on diversity:

59%

of all NCP award recipients are women

13%

of NCP award recipients identify as LGBTIQ+

40%

of NCP award recipients surveyed speak a language other than English

6%

of NCP award recipients identify as living with a disability

7%

of 2021 NCP scholars are Indigenous

Source: NCP Experience Survey Report 2020⁵⁹

Australia Awards

Australia has fostered leaders across the region since the very early days of the original Colombo Plan in 1951, recognising that education has the power to transform lives and create enduring social and economic impact. The Australian Government's Australia Awards are prestigious scholarships that strive to develop leadership potential and stimulate lasting change.

In 2020, around 1,985 of the best and the brightest emerging leaders from around the world have been offered the opportunity to undertake study, research and professional development in premier tertiary institutions in Australia and the region. Australia Awards recipients return home as high profile members of an engaged and influential alumni network linking Australia and the international community.



Top 10 country of origin.
International students in Australia 2020⁶⁰

Total students **725,852**



LEADING WORLD-CLASS MEDICAL RESEARCH AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

The Australian healthcare system is world class in effectiveness and efficiency. Australia consistently ranks in the World Health Organization's best performing group of countries for life expectancy and health expenditure per person, and the Commonwealth Fund's 2017 Mirror Report ranks Australia's health system number two in the world

and number one on health outcomes.

Australia's Long Term National Health Plan (2019) has identified the goal of making Australia's health system the world's number one overall, with a focus on health services in regional Australia being critical to achieving this goal.



The Australian Government provides support for all Australians to access high quality, timely and affordable healthcare – both for physical and mental health. Medicare is Australia's universal health care system, providing free public hospital care and patient subsidies for medical services, while the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme ensures affordable medicines. The Government provides significant financing for the health system, working closely with state and territory governments that have responsibility for on-the-ground delivery of hospital services. A private health sector complements the public system. Australians living in rural and regional areas have access to services such as regional cancer centres, expanded telehealth services, regional clinical trial centres and increased health workforce opportunities.

Improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is a top priority for Australia. The Government works with Indigenous communities and state and territory governments to ensure programs are working well to improve health outcomes by tackling the important issues that can cause ill health.

Australia has developed a comprehensive system of capabilities and functions to prepare for, detect and respond to health security threats. Australia's cutting-edge laboratories provide comprehensive services and ensure a high level of preparedness for emerging disease. Australia's system of border and quarantine measures also reduces the risk of importation of pathogens and pests, protecting the unique ecosystem and agriculture from invasive species and disease.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service⁶¹

One of Australia's best-known and respected institutions is the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS)

The Flying Doctor is a charity that operates a fleet of 77 planes and 140 road vehicles from 23 bases around the country⁶². Every day doctors, nurses and paramedics fly large distances to attend to patients or conduct clinics in small towns or on remote properties – a service particularly invaluable during COVID-19, when not only was risk of transmission higher but travel restrictions affected access to health services. Often, the RFDS escorts patients back to larger centres for hospital and medical treatment. The Service began in 1928 and provides more than 330,000 patient contacts per year – the equivalent of one every two minutes.



📍 Dunbar Station Cairns, Queensland

SPORTING EXCELLENCE

A great sporting nation⁶³

Australians love sport. There are more than 95 National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) recognised by the Australian Sports Commission and thousands of local, regional and state sports bodies.

Community-based sport across the nation underpins Australia's remarkable sporting achievements at the elite level, producing many international champions. Sporting success unites Australia, and is a powerful

force in creating social harmony. Almost all of the world's sports are played in Australia, with men and women well represented in sporting activities across the nation. Football (soccer), basketball and netball are the biggest team sports in Australia. Other team sports, such as rugby league, rugby union, Australia's unique brand of Australian Rules Football and cricket are also very popular.

Image courtesy of John Montesi.



📍 Adelaide Oval, South Australia



Yachts in Sydney harbour competing in the annual Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Successive governments have committed to supporting sport in Australia from grassroots to elite levels, increasing participation in physical and recreational activities to promote physical and mental health, staging world-class major sporting events, and using sport as a vehicle to address gender inequality, disadvantage and social inclusion challenges.

Australia also invests in high-performance sport through funding to NSOs as well as supporting national programs delivered through the Australian Institute of Sport, based in Canberra.





Westfield Matildas forward Kyah Simon celebrates scoring against Thailand in the AFC Women's Olympic Games Qualifying Tournament. Image courtesy of Rachel Bach - Behind the White Line.

Major sporting events

Australia has a reputation for staging successful major sporting events.

Australia has hosted the summer Olympic Games twice (Melbourne 1956 and Sydney 2000), the Commonwealth Games five times (Sydney 1938, Perth 1962, Brisbane 1982, Melbourne 2006 and Gold Coast 2018), the 2015 Cricket World Cup and 2020 T20 Women's Cricket World Cup, the 2015 Netball World Cup, the 2015 Asian Football Confederation Asian Cup, and the 2019 INAS Global Games for people with an intellectual disability. In 2023, Australia will co-host with New Zealand the FIFA Women's World Cup, the largest sporting event for women in the world.

Other international events are staged annually around Australia, such as the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, the Formula One Grand Prix in Melbourne, the internationally accredited Tour Down Under cycling event in South Australia, and a round of the Moto GP on Phillip Island in Victoria.

The world tennis circuit begins each year with the Australian Open in Melbourne.



Kurt Fearnley of Australia competes in the Men's T54 1500m at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. Image courtesy of Cameron Spencer/Getty Images.

THE XXI COMMONWEALTH GAMES WERE HOSTED IN AUSTRALIA IN APRIL 2018

The Games comprised 18 sports and seven para-sports. The majority of events were held on the Gold Coast with additional events in Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville. The Games had the largest integrated para-sports program in Commonwealth Games history, and for the first time in a major international multi-sport Games, there was an equal number of medal events for men and women across all sports.

In 2015, when Australia released its first sports diplomacy strategy, Australia was a pioneer in the field

Sports Diplomacy 2030 is the second Australian sport diplomacy strategy. It works to bring the Government's first national sport plan, Sport 2030, to an international stage – opening up pathways for Pacific athletes to play sport in Australia, supporting sport for development activities in the region and facilitating connections with other nations and cultures through shared sporting experiences.

SNAPSHOT OF AUSTRALIA'S CREATIVE SECTOR

Australia has one of the most sophisticated creative sectors in the world and is home to world-leading cultural institutions

Cultural and creative activity makes a significant contribution to Australia's economy, adding \$115.2 billion to the economy in 2017-18 and amounting to 6.3 per cent of GDP. It also accounts for 8.1 per cent of the Australian workforce – nearly 870,000 people⁶⁴.



📍 MONA – Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania

Image courtesy of MONA Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

The nation is home to world-class Australian design in fields from fashion to architecture, product and industrial design, interior and furniture design, landscape and environmental design, and graphic design and illustration. Australia is also home to some of the most unique and celebrated artistic expression, both ancient and contemporary, through traditional arts to screen, print, comedy, music and theatre.

AUSTRALIANS EMBRACING THE ARTS

Many Australians travel domestically to experience the arts. In 2018, Australians took 12.3 million daytrips (up 14 per cent since 2014) and 13.4 million overnight trips (up 20 per cent since 2014) within Australia that included arts activities⁶⁵. Indigenous arts and craft are a growth area for domestic and international arts tourism⁶⁶.

Preserving Australia’s stories and rich history

Australian National Collecting Institutions

Australia’s National Collecting Institutions develop and maintain collections that reflect Australia, its history and society⁶⁷. They provide a trusted and credible voice that helps tell our story across more than 60,000 years, and showcase Australia to international audiences. Their collections encompass material of artistic, historic, scientific and social significance – with collections exceeding 11 million objects, 11 per cent of which are accessible online. These collections complement the collections of major state-based public collecting institutions to present rich cultural experiences and connection for both Australian and international audiences.

Australian regional arts and culture

Regional Australia, where almost 30 per cent of the population lives, is home to some of the most unique arts and culture in the world. Australian artists and arts organisations shape Australia’s cultural landscape, increasing cultural diversity and inspiring, educating and entertaining communities across the country.

Performing arts in Australia

Australia’s vibrant and diverse performing arts sector continues to captivate and grow its audiences in Australia and internationally. Every year, Australian companies and independent artists in the fields of dance, theatre, circus, opera, music and experimental practice win over audiences with the quality of their productions and their distinctly Australian perspectives.

These artists and companies perform throughout Australia and internationally, offering both works of scale and intimate productions in some of Australia’s most iconic venues and festivals.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts companies such as Bangarra Dance Theatre, Yirra Yaarkin and Ilbijjerri Theatre Company offer diverse and contemporary expressions of the world’s oldest continuous culture. Companies and independent artists regularly tour internationally to critical acclaim and collaborate with Indigenous artists in other parts of the world.

Bangarra Dance Theatre performs Bennelong at the Sydney Coliseum Theatre in New South Wales.





Aboriginal art projected onto the sails of Sydney Opera House.
Image courtesy of Holger Link.

Indigenous visual arts

Through art, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists pass down their dynamic cultures to future generations. Australian Indigenous visual art is internationally recognised and sought after for its quality, innovation and cultural richness. Each year the Australian Government supports the Indigenous art sector through the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support program. The program provides support for around 80 Indigenous-owned art centres, as well as art fairs, regional hubs and industry service organisations that are at the heart of Australia's world-renowned Indigenous art movement. These organisations are mostly located in remote communities and together they support more than 7,000 artists and provide employment to over 300 Indigenous arts workers.

TOURISM RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

In 2017-18, analysis by Tourism Research Australia indicated that 978,000 international visitors and nearly 715,000 overnight domestic trips included Indigenous Tourism. Tourists spend a third of their money on shopping, and a significant component of this is on souvenirs. Tourism Australia reports that, for the year ending March 2017, almost 200,000 international visitors purchased Indigenous art or merchandise.



Image courtesy of Tourism Australia.

Australian music industry

Australia is a music nation. From the dawn of time, music has been woven into the fabric of this land through ceremony, celebration and culture. From the expression of Indigenous Australians to the vibrant contribution of migration, music is at the heart of how we come together and express ourselves. It provides a soundtrack to what Australia tells the world. Music is both ubiquitous and powerful – it can move people, help them through the day and provide points of connection and shared experiences. Music is infused throughout the daily life of almost every Australian – 97 per cent of Australians listen to recorded music and more than half like to attend live music events.

1 IN 4

Australians attend music festivals and one in seven create music themselves⁶⁸

44,892 MEMBERS

APRA AMCOS reports that 44,892 members earned royalties for their works in 2019⁶⁹

Major Australian cultural festivals and events

Australian cultural festivals are calendar highlights nationally and internationally. Events such as the Sydney Biennale, Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art's Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, OzAsia Festival and Asia TOPA draw large audiences from across Australia and the world, with new festivals and events regularly announced. Some of the more unique annual festivals include Woodford Folk Festival, Garma Festival, Splendour in the Grass, Parrtjima Festival, WOMADelaide, Vivid Sydney, and city-based comedy and Fringe festivals.



📍 WOMADelaide, South Australia

Australian screen industry

The Australian screen industry is bursting with world-class talent and creativity that has seen Australian actors, directors, producers and films receive wide acclaim. Australia is a world-class location for filmmaking because of our lifestyle and spectacular and diverse locations. Australia offers: well-respected and sought-after crews and creative talent; exceptional casts and internationally recognised technical facilities; Oscar winning post-production services; and a collaborative network of film agencies committed to supporting screen production.

Many big-budget movie and television productions are filmed in Australia, or feature the work of Australian post-production, digital and visual effects companies.

The Australian Government provides significant support for the development of talent and content creation through a range of highly competitive tax incentives and direct funding administered by Screen Australia and the Office for the Arts. The Australian Government has also finalised co-production agreements with Canada, China, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Korea, Singapore, South Africa and the United Kingdom, and has signed Memoranda of Understanding with France and New Zealand.



VISITING AUSTRALIA

Visa and immigration requirements

COVID-19 restrictions have changed Australia's border management, but Australia normally welcomes millions of overseas visitors each year. Australian passport holders do not need a visa to enter Australia. New Zealand passport holders can travel to Australia without a visa and obtain a visa on arrival (Special Category Visa) at the airport, as long as they satisfy the character, health and COVID-19 requirements.

All other passport holders need the right visa to come to Australia, and will need to have a visa prior to any travel to Australia. Visitors transiting through Australia on route to another destination may also need a visa.

There are different visas depending on travel purpose and length of visit. Each visa has conditions about what the holder can do in Australia. Having a visa to enter Australia does not automatically mean the holder can work, study or undertake other activities. Applicants need to apply for the visa that matches what they want to do in Australia.

Many visas can be applied for online, and the Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) may be applied for through travel agents and airlines.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Australians and New Zealanders can generally visit, live, study and work in either country without restrictions, as long as the applicant satisfies the requirements for entry. In 2020 special COVID-19 exemptions were added for New Zealand in light of its comparable health situation.

Biosecurity requirements

Australia is one of the few countries in the world that is free of the most serious pests and diseases.

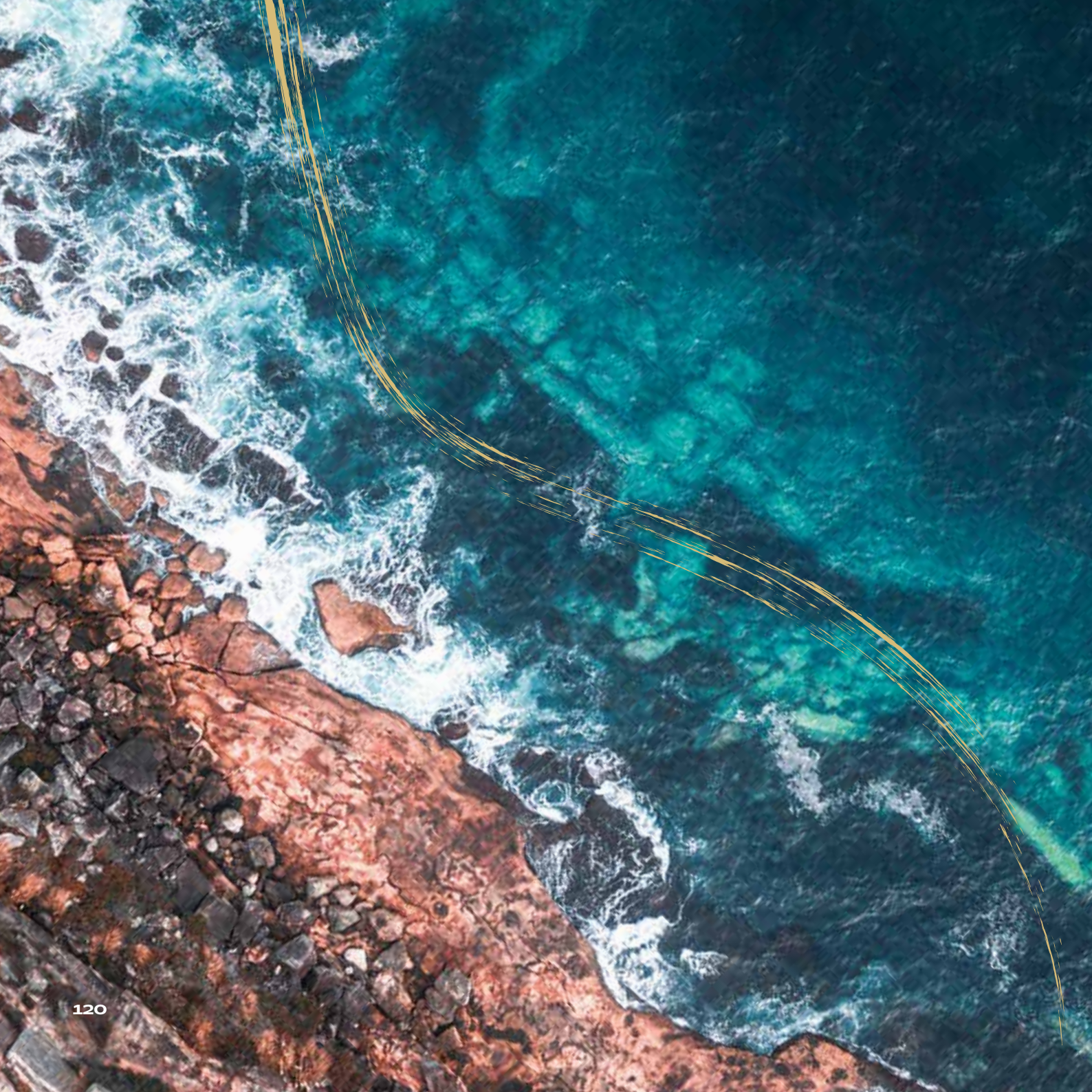
Australia's reputation as an exporter of high quality, clean agricultural produce is reliant on the absence of these biosecurity threats. The introduction of exotic pests and diseases could have serious environmental and economic consequences for Australia which is why there are strict biosecurity requirements in place.

All people, mail, cargo and vessels travelling to Australia must adhere to these requirements.

Biosecurity officers, detector dogs and x-ray machines are in place at Australia's international airports and mail centres to screen incoming passengers and mail.

When travelling to Australia, all international passengers must declare any biosecurity risk items on their incoming passenger card. This includes any food, plant material, animal products and wooden items.

The penalties for breaching Australia's biosecurity laws include hefty fines or imprisonment. International visitors can also have their visa cancelled for serious offences.



Legal information

This is the 52nd edition of Australia in Brief, revised and updated in February 2021. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is grateful for assistance from other government departments and agencies, and various private organisations which have licensed the use of photos and graphics. Money values are given in Australian dollars unless otherwise indicated. Weights and measures are metric and imperial.

Creative commons

With the exception of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms and where otherwise noted, such as copyrighted images, this booklet is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia license

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au/>

The booklet should be attributed as
Australia in Brief, Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

ISBN 978-1-74322-161-7

ISSN 0815-9939

Use of the Australian Coat of Arms

The terms under which the Australian Coat of Arms and the Australian Flags can be used are detailed on the website of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet at www.pmc.gov.au/government/its-honour.

Inquiries regarding the licence and any use of the booklet should be directed to:

Assistant Secretary

Communications Branch

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

R G Casey Building

John McEwen Crescent

Barton ACT 0221 Australia

Telephone +61 2 6261 1111

public.diplomacy@dfat.gov.au

Inquiries regarding the licensing of images should be directed to the individual copyright holders.

Reference list

1

UNDP 2019, Human Development Report, <http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2019.pdf>

2

National, state and territory population, June 2020, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/latest-release>

3

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016, 2016 Census QuickStats, https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/Q36?opendocument

4

Area of Australia States and Territories <https://www.ga.gov.au/scientific-topics/national-location-information/dimensions/area-of-australia-states-and-territories>

5

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2018, Life expectancy at birth, <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@nsf/Lookup/3302.O.55.001Main+Features12016-2018?OpenDocument>

6

City of Sydney 2020, Greater Sydney Population, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/research-and-statistics/the-city-at-a-glance/greater-sydney>

7

ABS Figures from 2016 Census <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples/estimates-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-australians/latest-release>

8

Institute for International Education 2020, Project Atlas, <https://www.iie.org/research-and-insights/Project-Atlas>

9

The Economist 2020, Intelligence Unit, <https://www.eiu.com/n/>

10

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies 2020, <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/australias-first-peoples>

11

Pascoe B, 2014, Dark Emu, Magabala Books, Broome.

12

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies 2020, <https://aiatsis.gov.au/>

13

National Indigenous Australians Agency 2020, <https://www.indigenous.gov.au/>

14

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies 2020, <https://aiatsis.gov.au/>

Making Multicultural Australia 2020, <http://www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au/>

Department of Home Affairs 2020, Immigration and Citizenship, <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

15

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016, 2016 Census QuickStats, https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/Q36?opendocument

16

Migration program <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/live/migration-program>

17

Department of Home Affairs 2019, 2018-19 Migration Program Report, <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/live/migration-program>

18

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016, 2016 Census QuickStats, https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/Q36?opendocument

19

Australian Government 2020, <https://www.australia.gov.au/>

20

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies 2020, Aboriginal Flag, <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/articles/aboriginal-flag>

21

National Museum of Australia 2020, <https://www.nma.gov.au/>

22

Australian War Memorial 2020, Australians at War, <https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar>

23

Castles F.G, “Social Laboratory”, in Graeme Davison, G, Hirst, J, Macintyre, S and Torney, K 2001, The Oxford Companion to Australian History, pp. 597-598

24

Composition Party Gender https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp2021/Quick_Guides/CompositionPartyGender

25

Labour Force, Australia, January 2021, ABS, ‘Participation’, released 18 February 2021, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release#participation>

26

Australia’s Gender Pay Gap Statistics 2021, WGEA, released 26 February 2021, <https://www.wgea.gov.au/publications/australias-gender-pay-gap-statistics>; Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, November 2020, ABS, ‘Data downloads: Table 2. Average weekly earnings, Australia (dollars) – seasonally adjusted’, released 25 February 2021, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/average-weekly-earnings-australia/nov-2020#data-download>

27

Board Diversity Statistics <https://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/advocacy/board-diversity/statistics>

28

Gender Balance on Australian Government Boards <https://www.pmc.gov.au/office-women/leadership/gender-balance-australian-government-boards>

29

Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House 2020, Australian Democracy: An Overview, <https://www.moadoph.gov.au/democracy/australian-democracy/#>

30

Parliament of Australia 2020, Parliament and Government, https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Work_of_the_Parliament/Forming_and_Governing_a_Nation/parl

31

GSMA 2019, The State of Mobile Internet Connectivity 2019, <https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/resources/the-state-of-mobile-internet-connectivity-report-2019/>

32

Tourism Australia 2020, Travelling to Australia Is One of the Best Ways to Help Bushfire Recovery, <https://www.australia.com/en/facts-and-planning/useful-tips/bushfire-safety/how-you-can-help.html>

33

Tourism Research Australia International Visitor Survey, September 2019 <https://www.tra.gov.au/data-and-research/reports/international-visitor-survey-results-september-2020/international-visitor-survey-results-september-2020>

34

Tourism Research Australia International Visitor Survey, September 2019 <https://www.tra.gov.au/data-and-research/reports/international-visitor-survey-results-september-2020/international-visitor-survey-results-september-2020>

35

Overseas Arrivals and Departures <https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/overseas-arrivals-and-departures>

36

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2020, World Heritage Places – Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/gondwana>

37

Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook <https://budget.gov.au/2020-21/content/myefo/index.htm>

38

IMF World Economic Outlook, October 2020, <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2020/09/30/world-economic-outlook-october-2020>

39

Australian Trade Commission, OECD, Data extracted on 05 September 2019 from OECD.Stat, Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. No. 5206.0 Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (Released 4 September 2019), Table 2; Austrade

40

Australia Bureau of Statistics, various ABS catalogues

41

Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia, September 2020 | Australian Bureau of Statistics, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/international-trade/balance-payments-and-international-investment-position-australia/latest-release>

42

Australian Bureau of Statistics and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - ABS trade data on the DFAT STARS database.

43

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, infographic from 2020 TIAAG, FTAs in Force, pp.52-53

44

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2019, Statistics on Who Invests in Australia, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/resources/investment-statistics/Pages/statistics-on-who-invests-in-australia>

45

ProBono Australia 2019, The best countries for social entrepreneurs revealed, <https://probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2019/11/the-best-countries-for-social-entrepreneurs-revealed/>

Castellas, E and Barraket, J 2017, How Social Enterprises are Building a More Inclusive Australian Economy, <https://theconversation.com/how-social-enterprises-are-building-a-more-inclusive-australian-economy-88472>

46

Easton, S 2018, Australia’s First Social Procurement Policy Redefines Value for Money, <https://www.themandarin.com.au/91835-australias-first-social-procurement-policy-redefines-value-for-money/>

Victorian Government 2020, Social procurement – Victorian Government approach, <https://www.buyingfor.vic.gov.au/social-procurement-victorian-government-approach>

47

Infographic from Austrade benchmark report 2020 – Australia’s innovation credentials p.31, <https://www.austrade.gov.au/International/Invest/Resources/Benchmark-Report>

48

Infographic from Austrade benchmark report 2020 – Dynamic industries – Australia’s tech credentials, p.17, <https://www.austrade.gov.au/International/Invest/Resources/Benchmark-Report>

49

Infographic from Austrade benchmark report 2020 – Innovation and Skills – Relative impacts of Australian scientific publications by research field 2014-18, p.35, <https://www.austrade.gov.au/International/Invest/Resources/Benchmark-Report>

50 Clean Energy Regulator 2019, Quarterly Carbon Market Report – December Quarter 2019, <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/DocumentAssets/Pages/Quarterly-Carbon-Market-Report---December-Quarter-2019.aspx>

51 Bloomberg New Energy Finance 2019, Australia leaves others behind in home solar penetration, <https://about.bnef.com/blog/australia-largest-residential-storage-market-2019>

52 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2019, 5209.0 – Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, Sep 2019, <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/5209.0Main+Features1Sep%202019?OpenDocument>

53 The Economist 2017, Australia Is the New Frontier for Battery Minerals, <https://www.economist.com/business/2017/11/25/australia-is-the-new-frontier-for-battery-minerals>

Australian Mining 2019, Batteries Included: How Australia Is Charging Up for a Revolution, <https://www.australianmining.com.au/features/batteries-included-how-australia-is-charging-up-for-a-revolution>

54 DFAT Annual Report 2019-20, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/corporate/annual-reports/Pages/annual-reports>

55 Department of Defence 2020, <https://www.defence.gov.au>

Australian Federal Police 2020, <https://www.afp.gov.au/>

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2020, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/>

56 Times Higher Education 2019, World University Rankings 2019, https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2019/world-ranking#!/page/0/length/25/locations/AU/sort_by/rank/sort_order/asc/cols/stats

57 Australian Government 2020, About Australian Education, <https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/australian-education/About-Australian-education>

58 Department of Education, Skills and Training, International Student Data 2019, <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/International-Student-Data/Pages/default.aspx>

59 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, NCP Experience Survey Report 2020 and 2021 NCP Scholar data

60 Dept of Education and Training International Student Data <https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/trade-and-investment/trade-and-investment-glance-2020#australia-is-a-top-20-country>

61 Royal Flying Doctor Service 2020, <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/>

62 Royal Flying Doctors Service 2020, Facts & Figures, <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/about-the-rfds/facts-and-figures/>

63 Australian Sports Commission 2020, <https://www.sportaus.gov.au/>

Australian Government Department of Health 2020, <https://www.health.gov.au/>

64 Bureau of Communications and Arts Research 2018, The Economic Value of Cultural and Creative Activity, <https://www.communications.gov.au/departamental-news/economic-value-cultural-and-creative-activity>

65 Australian Council for the Arts 2020, Domestic Arts Tourism: Connecting the Country, p.10, <https://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/research/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Domestic-Arts-Tourism-research-report-PDF.pdf>

66 Australian Council for the Arts 2020, Domestic Arts Tourism: Connecting the Country, p.9, <https://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/research/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Domestic-Arts-Tourism-research-report-PDF.pdf>

67 National Library of Australia 2020, Other Collecting Institutions, <https://www.nla.gov.au/other-collecting-institutions>

68 Australia Council 2017, Connecting Australians: Results of the National Arts Participation Survey, <https://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/news/media-centre/media-releases/connecting-australians-the-national-arts-participation-survey/>

69 Australia Council 2017, Connecting Australians: Results of the National Arts Participation Survey, <https://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/research/connecting-australians/>

