



A U S T R A L I A A N D

BELARUS

Key engagement

Friendly bilateral relations and cooperation in international organisations.

Bilateral relations

Australia established diplomatic relations with Belarus following its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991. We share a friendly bilateral relationship, and engage on issues of mutual interest in international organisations.

Australia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Arts and Culture with Belarus during Deputy Foreign Minister Rybakov's visit to Australia in February 2015. A Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Consultations between foreign ministries was signed in 2013.

Economic and trade information is available in the Belarus Fact sheet:

<https://dfat.gov.au/geo/belarus/Pages/belarus.asp>

Foreign policy

Belarus seeks to pursue an independent and peaceful foreign policy, developing cooperation with strategic allies and foreign partners. Its key priorities are relations with Russia, other post-Soviet states, European Union and the US. Building bilateral relations with countries in Asia, Latin America, Middle Eastern and Africa are also a priority. Belarus is active in engaging with international organisations.

Belarus has diplomatic representation in 57 countries. When including accredited countries, the total is 109 states.

Further information about Belarus foreign policy is available at:

<http://mfa.gov.by/en/>



Foreign Policy White Paper:
<https://www.fpwhitepaper.gov.au>

FAST FACTS



Australian visitors to Belarus (2018) **900**



Belarusian visitors to Australia (2018) **600**



Resident Australian population born in Belarus (2016 census) **1700**



Australian residents of Belarusian descent (2016 census) **2746**

High level engagement

2013, 2015 Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Valentin Rybakov, to Australia

Australian Embassy in the Russian Federation

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