Australia and Denmark

Key engagement

Australia and Denmark established diplomatic relations in 1967. Australia and Denmark share a commitment to democratic values, protecting human rights, defending the rules-based international order and trade liberalisation.

Australia and Denmark cooperate on a range of issues in international forums and share a strong commitment to global security, including condemning Russia’s unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

Outlook

Australia and Denmark engage closely on renewable energy and action on climate change. From 2016-2020, the stock of Danish investment in Australia grew on average by 12.2 per cent p.a. Australia's profile in Denmark, and vice-versa, was boosted by the marriage in May 2004 of Australian-born Mary Donaldson to Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik, and the bilateral relationship continues to grow.

Bilateral relations

Australia and Denmark share a likeminded global outlook underpinned by strong people-to-people links established over two centuries of migration. The Sydney Opera House, designed by Danish Architect Jørn Utzon and design engineered by Arup, is Australia’s most prominent example of Australian and Danish collaboration, and will celebrate its 50th year anniversary in 2023.

Foreign Policy

Australia and Denmark work together to promote and protect the international rules-based order and universal human rights. Both countries contribute to global peace and stability with humanitarian efforts and international military operations, prevention of terrorism and radicalisation and with support to fragile states. Denmark is a global leader in wind energy and contributes significantly to Australia’s renewable energy capacity.

Denmark is a member of numerous international organisations including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Arctic Council and World Trade Organization.

FAST FACTS

| Danish visitors to Australia (Year ending 30 June 2022) | 600 |
| Resident Australian population born in Denmark (2021 census) | 8,874 |
| Australian residents of Danish descent (2021 census) | 65,529 |

High level engagement

2022

2022 Minister for Government Services and Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Hon Bill Shorten visited Copenhagen, Denmark for meetings with counterparts.

2017

Former Minister of Defence, Senator the Hon Marise Payne visited Denmark in May 2017 to attend a meeting on the Coalition against ISIL.
Agreements with Denmark

Australia and Denmark have several bilateral agreements including a Working Holiday Maker Arrangement and Social Security Agreement, both signed in 2001. Denmark and Australia signed an Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation in 1981.

Texts of bilateral agreements are available at the Australian Treaties Database

Public diplomacy

The Australian Embassy in Copenhagen actively promotes Australia’s industries, sports credentials, culture and progress towards gender equality and LGBTI rights.

The Embassy hosts a number of cultural and business events throughout the year to promote Australia’s creativity and innovation. Partnering with local cultural institutions, the Embassy has supported exhibitions and hosted film festivals that highlight Australia’s diversity and Indigenous history.

The Embassy hosts a dawn service and gunfire breakfast on 25 April to mark ANZAC Day at the Australian War Memorial in Churchill Park in Copenhagen.

Copenhagen Pride – Denmark’s largest annual Human Rights festivals – receives strong support from the embassy each year.

Australian Embassy in Copenhagen

Home
(embassy.gov.au)
Facebook

Economic diplomacy

Australia seeks opportunities to promote Australian business and raise awareness of the benefits of increased trade and investment between Australia and Europe, including Denmark. This work has intensified followed the launch of Australia-EU FTA negotiations in June 2018.

Total two-way trade between Australia and Denmark in 2021 was worth over $2 billion.

Australia’s major exports to Denmark were alcoholic beverages, oil-seeds and oleaginous fruits and aircraft, spacecraft and parts. Major imports from Denmark were services, meat (excl beef), medicaments (incl veterinary), and pharmaceutical products (excl medicaments).

More information about the Australia-EU FTA can be found at: https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/negotiations/aeufta/Pages/default

More economic and trade information can be found in the Denmark Country Fact Sheet: https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/denm-cef.pdf

Business

Denmark is an open, innovative and export-focused economy with relatively low trade barriers. The innovation ecosystem in Denmark is well developed and boasts a wide range of opportunities for start-ups and companies wishing to do business in Denmark, including targeted start-up programs, cluster networks, regional growth centres, and access to early-stage funding.

Over 100 Danish companies have a presence in Australia including Vestas Wind Systems (wind turbines), Falck (health services), ISS (cleaning company), Chr. Hansen (bioscience), and Arla (dairy). Significant Australian companies in Denmark include the Adina Group (hotels) and Virtus Health (IVF provider).


Travel

See smartraveller for information on travelling to Denmark.