



AUSTRALIA
in brief



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SNAPSHOT *of Australia*

FULL TITLE
Commonwealth of Australia

POPULATION
23.94 million
(December 2015)

PROPORTION OF POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS
28.2 per cent
(June 2015)

CAPITAL CITY
Canberra

LARGEST CITY
Sydney
Population 4.92 million (2015)

SURFACE AREA
7.69 million sq kms
(2.96 million sq miles)

MAIN LANGUAGE

English
+ more than
300 others

CURRENCY
Australian dollar (AUD)



LIFE EXPECTANCY
84 years (women)
80 years (men)

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT PER CAPITA
A\$64,660 (2013)

WORKFORCE
11.9 million (May 2016)

INFLATION RATE
1 per cent
(June 2016)

VALUE OF EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES
A\$316.6 billion

MAJOR GOODS AND SERVICES EXPORTS

MAJOR IMPORTS

Passenger motor vehicles, refined petroleum, crude petroleum, telecom equipment and parts, computers

MAIN TRADING PARTNERS

China, Japan, United States, Republic of Korea



NATIONAL DAY

Australia Day: 26 January



TIME

Eastern: GMT+10hrs
Central: GMT+9.5hrs
Western: GMT+8hrs



HOUSEHOLDS WITH INTERNET ACCESS

83%
June 2013

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
440,949 (2016)



Overview

AUSTRALIA IS A COUNTRY OF STRIKING LANDSCAPES, A RICH ANCIENT CULTURE AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S STRONGEST ECONOMIES. IT IS THE SIXTH-LARGEST COUNTRY IN LAND AREA AND IS THE ONLY NATION TO GOVERN AN ENTIRE CONTINENT.

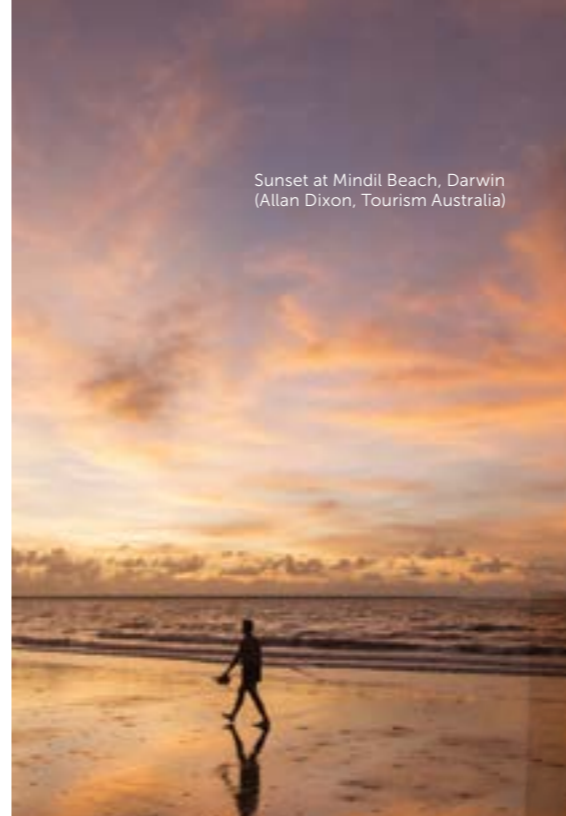
DID YOU KNOW?

Australia is the fourth largest economy in the Asian region and is the 12th largest economy in the world.

With a spectacular natural environment, high quality of life and great diversity, Australia is a sought after destination for international tourists. It has 10 per cent of the world's biodiversity and a great number of its native plants and animals exist nowhere else on earth. From tropical rainforests in the north to the red deserts of the centre, from the snowfields of the south-east to the Australian Antarctic Territory, it is a vast and varied land. Australia has many World Heritage sites including the Great Barrier Reef, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and the Sydney Opera House.

Australia is home to one of the world's oldest living cultures, with Aboriginal communities established nearly 60,000 years before European settlement. Today, Australia is one of the world's most multicultural countries, rich in Indigenous and immigrant cultures.

Sunset at Mindil Beach, Darwin
(Allan Dixon, Tourism Australia)



Sydney Harbour
(Ellenor Argyropoulos,
Tourism Australia)



Australia is a successful and prosperous nation, ranked second in the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report 2014.

Australia's economy is consistently ranked among the strongest of advanced economies in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. It is the world's twelfth largest economy and a top performing nation on almost every measure of excellence, from health to wealth, from ease of doing business to educational attainment.

With low unemployment, low inflation and a highly skilled workforce, and with strong links with the fastest-growing region in the world - the Indo-Pacific - Australia's economy is set to prosper well into the future.

AUSTRALIA IS A NATION OF BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITY IN A COUNTRY OF ENDLESS POTENTIAL—A NATION THAT IS 'OPEN FOR BUSINESS'.

Australia's foreign and trade policy promotes its security and long-term prosperity. It seeks to protect and advance its national interests in a rapidly changing environment, while supporting a stable global order. Australia has been integrally involved in global efforts to build peace and security for decades, just as it has in promoting global trade and investment liberalisation. Australia is a good international citizen, helping in times of crisis and supporting economic development in its region.

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia is the world's third most popular destination for international students.

The land and its people

HISTORY

Australia's Aboriginal people, the original inhabitants of the Australian continent, arrived at least 60,000 years ago.



Indigenous rock art, Arnhem Land
(James Fisher, Tourism Australia)

DID YOU KNOW?

Australian Indigenous art is the oldest ongoing tradition of art in the world.

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 penal colonies in New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia. Free settlers followed in increasing numbers, gradually outnumbering convicts. A colony made up entirely of free settlers was established in South Australia in the 1830s.

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

IN 1901, THE SIX COLONIES UNITED TO FORM THE FEDERAL COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

From 1914 to 1918, more than 400,000 Australians volunteered in World War I. Although Australia's first major campaign in Gallipoli in 1915 was a failure, with almost 9,000 Australian soldiers losing their lives, its commemoration came to be an important element in the emergence of an Australian national identity.

The signing of the 1919 Treaty of Versailles by the Prime Minister was the first time Australia had signed an international treaty. In World War II (1939–45), Australian troops were deployed against the Axis powers in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, and allied with the United States in the Pacific War against Japan. On 1 November 1945, Australia became a founding member of the United Nations. In 1951, Australia entered into the ANZUS Treaty with the United States and New Zealand, and in 1957 signed an agreement

on commerce with Japan which underpinned Australia's increasing engagement with Asia.

Over the past 50 years, Australia has developed a highly diversified economy with considerable strengths, particularly in the mining and agricultural sectors as well as manufacturing and services, and it has become increasingly economically integrated with the countries of East Asia.



www.nma.gov.au

www.awm.gov.au/atwar

DID YOU KNOW?

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.

Convict era building, Kingston and Arthurs Vale Historic Area, Norfolk Island (Mark Mohell, Department of the Environment)



National Symbols

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL SYMBOLS

THE AUSTRALIAN 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.



Acacia pycnantha Benth

OUR NATIONAL COLOURS

Australia's national colours are green and gold, the colours of its national floral emblem, the Golden Wattle.



THE COAT OF ARMS

The Australian 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. By popular tradition, the kangaroo is accepted as the national animal emblem. The Golden Wattle was proclaimed the national floral emblem in August 1988.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Advance Australia Fair has been Australia's official national anthem since 19 April 1984.

*Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young 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 DAY



Australia Day is celebrated each year on 26 January. The date is the anniversary of the unfurling of the British flag at Sydney Cove in 1788.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

Australia has 12 public holidays a year, including New Year's Day, Australia Day and Anzac Day.



An Australian soldier carries a wounded comrade near North Beach, Gallipoli (AWM H10363)

DID YOU KNOW?

Anzac Day, 25 April, is a national day of commemoration for all Australians who have fought in wars. It is the day the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) landed at Gallipoli in Turkey in 1915 during World War I. To mark Anzac Day, Australians and New Zealanders attend ceremonies at home and around the world, including in Gallipoli. In 2015, Australia marked the centenary of the Anzac landing with a ceremony at Gallipoli.



www.australia.gov.au
www.australia.com

POPULATION

Australians come from a rich variety of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds. While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the original inhabitants of the land, immigrants from about 200 countries also call Australia home.

DID YOU KNOW?

That in 2015 Australia had the second highest median adult wealth (US \$168,000) in the world after New Zealand (US \$182,000). Australia was followed by Belgium and the United Kingdom.

New Australian citizens pose with the flag
(Department of Immigration and Border Protection)



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 doubled.

Australia's immigration policy welcomes people from all over the world and does not discriminate on racial, cultural or religious grounds. Australians embrace the spectrum of religious beliefs and Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and other places of worship are found in almost every major city.

AUSTRALIA IS MODERN, CONTEMPORARY AND MULTICULTURAL AND THIS IS REFLECTED IN ITS BUILDINGS, FASHION, RECREATION AND FOODS.

An Australian family at Bondi Beach, Sydney
(Camille Nuttall, Tourism Australia)

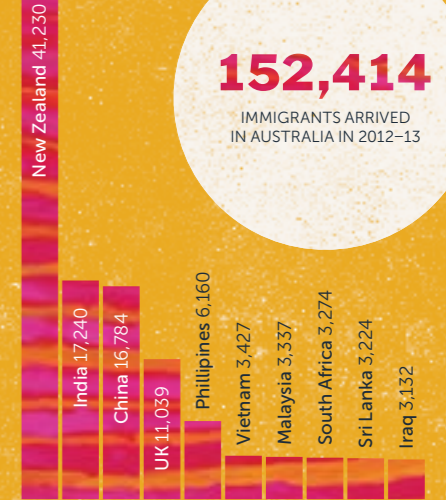


DID YOU KNOW?

English is the national language but more than 300 languages are spoken in Australian homes. The most common are Mandarin, Italian, Arabic, Cantonese and Greek.

152,414

IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED
IN AUSTRALIA IN 2012-13



TOP 10 SOURCE COUNTRIES
FOR IMMIGRANTS (2012-13)

Source: Department of Immigration and Border Protection



www.multiculturalaustralia.edu.au
www.immi.gov.au

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA

Aboriginal people in Australia are the custodians of one of the oldest continuous living cultures in the world. Archaeological evidence suggests that Australia has been continuously inhabited for more than 60,000 years.

(James Fisher, Tourism Australia)

DID YOU KNOW?

One in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people speak an Australian Indigenous language at home.

Another distinct group, of Melanesian origin, are the Torres Strait Islander peoples who first settled on islands north of the mainland, between the tip of Queensland and Papua New Guinea, thousands of years ago.

Today, most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in cities and towns. Many people still remain on their traditional lands and maintain aspects of their traditional lifestyles in a modern-day Australia.

Prior to European settlement it is estimated that around 250 different languages were spoken. While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages remain strong in some communities, it is estimated that more than 100 languages have been lost and around 110 are endangered. Efforts are underway to keep language strong in communities and to revive vulnerable languages.

Indigenous culture is diverse and strong and makes a vital contribution to Australia's national identity.



Ambassador for Australian Indigenous Fashion Week, Samantha Harris, wearing a design by Torres Strait Islander, Grace Lillian Lee (Hamish Gregory Photography)

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 decision on 3 June 1992 which recognised native title and Indigenous peoples' 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 Australia's Indigenous Peoples for past mistreatment and injustices, especially the Stolen Generations, who were Indigenous children forcibly removed from their families.

Today, the Australian Government is committed to working in partnership with Indigenous people, families and communities to make sure children go to school every day, adults have jobs and communities are safe places to live.

To achieve this, the Government is working closely with Indigenous Australians to ensure that better services and outcomes are delivered on the ground. The Australian Government is also committed to achieving recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's Constitution.



www.indigenous.gov.au
www.aiatsis.gov.au

Indigenous people contribute in many areas including the arts, media, academia, politics, sport and business. The 2014 Australian of the Year, Adam Goodes, a professional Australian Rules football player - an Adnyamathanha man from the Flinders Ranges in South Australia.

A national referendum, held on 27 May 1967, removed references from the Australian Constitution which discriminated against Indigenous people and excluded Aboriginal people from being counted



2014 Australian of the Year, Adam Goodes, responds to the crowd at an AFL match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (Greg Ford, AFL Media)

GOVERNMENT

Australia was one of the first countries to establish democracy in the modern world. In the mid-nineteenth century, Australian colonies set about writing constitutions which produced democratically elected parliaments.



Parliament House forecourt, Canberra
(Lincoln Fowler, Tourism Australia)

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 also among the first to give women the vote.

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

- > 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.

The Australian Government follows the British (Westminster) tradition. The Governor-General, representing the Crown, exercises the supreme 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.

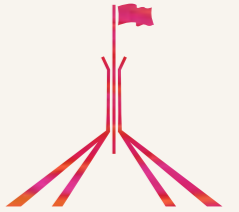
The Prime Minister leads a cabinet of ministers, each of whom has responsibility for a portfolio of government duties. Commonwealth ministers, including the Prime Minister, are appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the leader of a political party or coalition which represents a majority in the federal parliament. Similar systems operate in the states and territories. There are also more than 560 local councils across the country.

The 1901 Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia sets out the powers of the Commonwealth and states. Each state has its own written constitution. The High Court of Australia and the Federal Court of Australia have the authority to interpret constitutional provisions. Under the Constitution, the legislative power of the Commonwealth is vested in the 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.

All Australian citizens over the age of 18 must vote in both federal and state elections.

DID YOU KNOW?

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.



.....
PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT

14 million+
Australians vote for federal representatives

226
federal representatives

76
senators in the Senate

150
members in the House of Representatives

50%+
support needed to form government

ECONOMY

Known as one of the great agricultural, mining and energy producers, Australia has one of the world's most open and varied economies, with a highly educated workforce and an extensive services sector.



DID YOU KNOW?

Australia is rated 'triple A' by all three global rating agencies and enjoys levels of net public debt that are among the lowest in the OECD.

Stock Exchange market board
(Australian Securities Exchange)

Underpinning Australia's strong economy is its open and transparent trade and investment environment, business-friendly regulatory approach and its trade and economic links with emerging economies, particularly in Asia.

Australia's economy is considered one of the strongest, most stable and diverse in the world. In 2015, Australia entered its 25th year of uninterrupted annual economic growth, averaging 3.3 per cent a year.

The services sector is the largest part of the Australian economy, accounting for 60 per cent of gross domestic product and four out of five jobs. Australia is an important and growing financial centre, with a sophisticated financial services sector and strong regulation.

A continuing process of reform to further open the economy and strengthen its competitiveness has been a key ingredient of Australia's success.

AUSTRALIA IS A GLOBAL LEADER IN FIVE SIGNIFICANT AND DIVERSE SECTORS: AGRIBUSINESS, EDUCATION, TOURISM, MINING AND WEALTH MANAGEMENT.

Source: (Austrade, Why Australia Benchmark Report June 2014 Update, Section 1, Growth, pg 9)

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
US\$38.6 BILLION, 2014
TOP 14 EXPORTER IN THE WORLD
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT CATEGORIES



FOREIGN STUDENTS IN TERTIARY EDUCATION
6.4% OF THE WORLD'S TOTAL, 2013
THIRD LARGEST IN THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA'S INVESTMENT FUND ASSETS
US\$1.6 TRILLION, JUNE 2015
THIRD LARGEST IN THE WORLD



AUSTRALIA'S
GLOBALLY
SIGNIFICANT
INDUSTRIES



INTERNATIONAL TOURISM RECEIPTS
US\$32 BILLION, 2014
11TH LARGEST IN THE WORLD



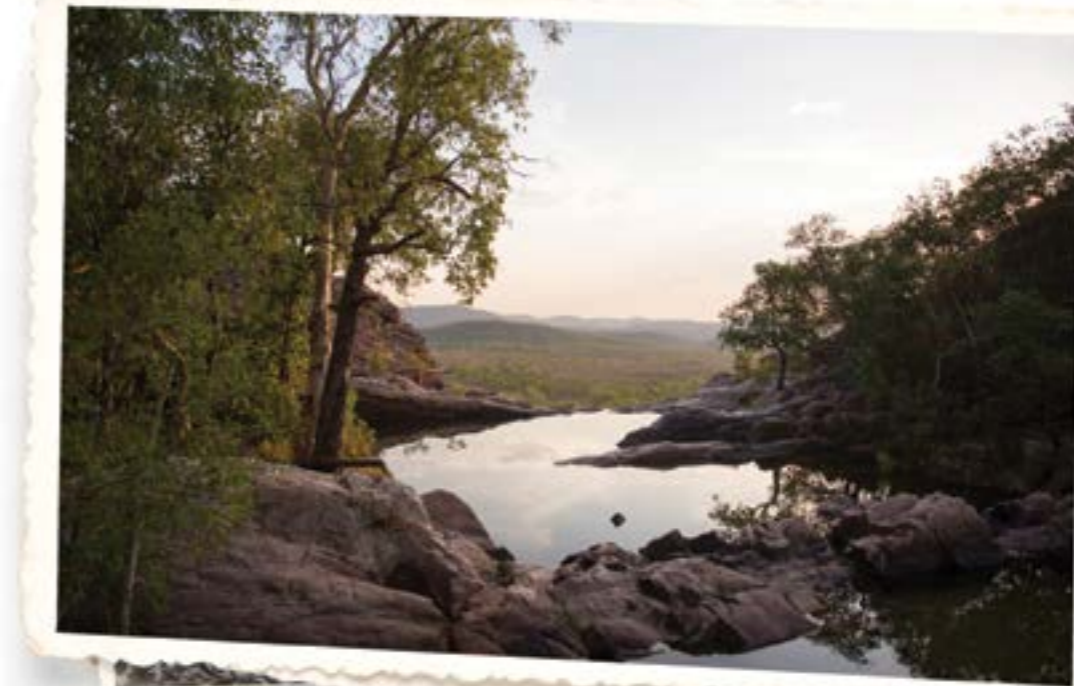
MERCHANDISE EXPORTS: FUELS AND MINING
US\$153 BILLION, 2014
IN THE TOP 5 EXPORTERS IN THE WORLD



DID YOU KNOW?

The BBC has declared Australia the 'lifestyle super power' of the globe.

Kangaroos
(Tourism Australia)



Gunlom (Waterfall Creek), Kakadu National Park
(Ellenor Argyropoulos, Tourism Australia)

ENVIRONMENT

Australia has around 10 per cent of the world's biodiversity and is one of the 17 megadiverse countries that together account for almost 70 per cent of the world's species. It is a land like no other.



Great Ocean Road, Victoria
(Chris Kapa, Tourism Australia)

DID YOU KNOW?

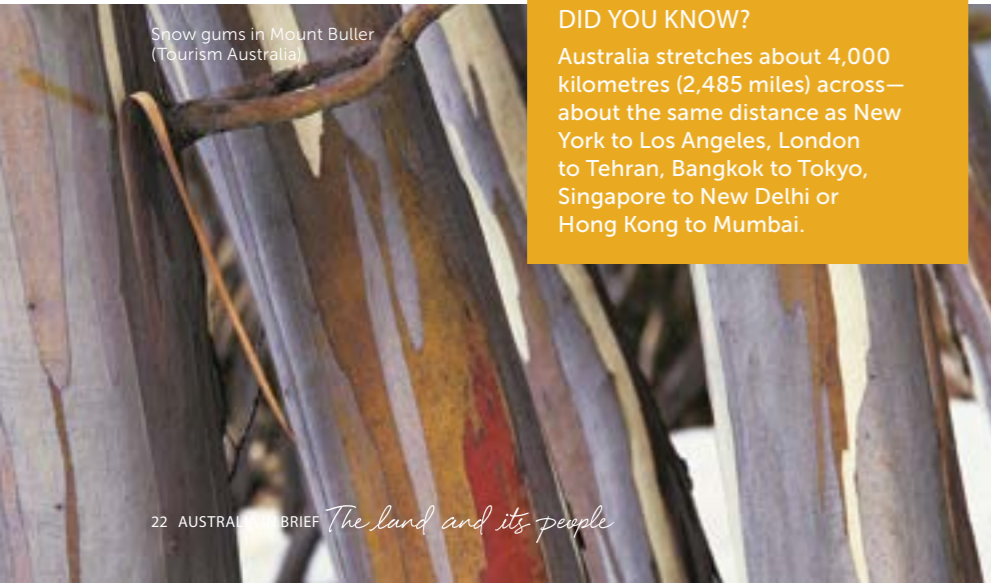
Australia is about the size of the United States mainland.

A LEADING ANTARCTIC NATION

Australia is a leading Antarctic nation, driving international efforts to preserve Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science. About 80 scientists and support staff live and work on Australia's Antarctic stations during winter and as many as 200 in the summer months. Marine scientists also work on Australian research vessels in the Southern Ocean. Australia's world-class Antarctic research program contributes to understanding environmental systems in Antarctica and the effects of global climate change. It involves cooperation with hundreds of institutions in more than 25 countries. >



Penguins in Antarctica
(Todor Iolovski, Australian Antarctic Division)



Snow gums in Mount Buller
(Tourism Australia)

DID YOU KNOW?

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

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) such as kangaroos, koalas, wombats and the Tasmanian Devil. Australia is also home to two monotremes, the platypus and the echidna. These egg-laying mammals are so unusual that they are sometimes referred to as 'living fossils'.

Australia's national reserve system covers 17.88 per cent of Australia's land mass—more than 137 million hectares (339 million acres) across 10,000 properties—and includes a range of habitats from lush rainforests to savannas and deserts. The Commonwealth marine reserve estate, with 60 reserves, including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, covers 3.1 million square kilometres, approximately one third of Commonwealth waters.

19

AUSTRALIAN SITES
ARE LISTED ON THE
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST.

whc.unesco.org/en/list



Great Barrier Reef, Queensland—
the world's largest coral reef system
(D. Bergmark, Tourism Australia)



Australian fossil mammal site, Naracoorte,
South Australia—some of the richest fossil
deposits in the world (SA Department of
Environment, Water and Natural Resources)



Fraser Island, Queensland—
the world's largest sand island
(Maxime Coquard, Tourism Australia)



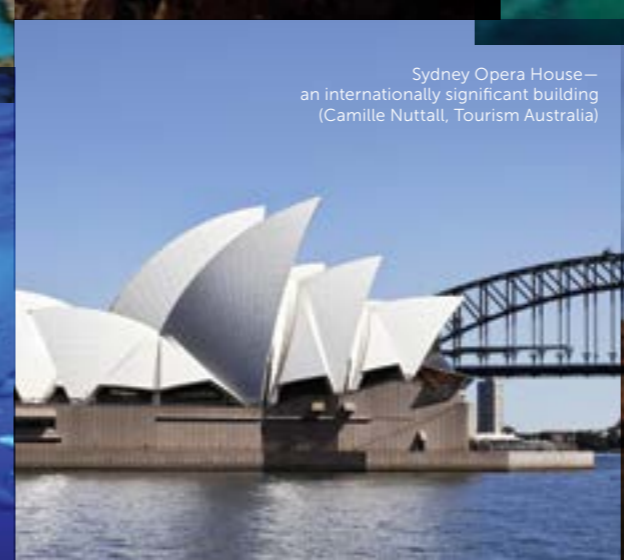
Royal Exhibition Building, Victoria—
one of the last remaining world fair buildings
which is still used for exhibitions (Tourism Victoria)



Tasmanian Wilderness—one of the three
largest temperate wilderness areas
remaining in the Southern Hemisphere
(Graham Freeman, Tourism Australia)



Shark Bay, Western Australia—2.2 million hectares of
unspoilt coastal landscape (Anson Smart, Tourism
Australia)



Sydney Opera House—
an internationally significant building
(Camille Nuttall, Tourism Australia)



Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Northern Territory—
a culturally sacred landscape for Aboriginal people
(Masaru Kitano snaK Productions, Tourism Australia)

Australia and the world

LOOKING OUTWARD

Australia is an outward-looking country that is strongly engaged with the rest of the world. For more than two centuries, Australia has been building strong and enduring ties with many countries. These bonds have been forged through history, through common strategic interests, through trade and through people-to-people relations.



Australia is a vibrant, multicultural country. We are home to the world's oldest continuous cultures, as well as Australians who identify with more than 270 ancestries. Since 1945, almost seven million people have migrated to Australia.

Approximately one quarter of Australia's population (6.7 million people) was born overseas and approximately half have an overseas born parent.

One in 10 Australians speak an Asian language at home and almost 1.3 million speak a European language other than English.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2014, Australia celebrated 40 years of partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Australia has a deep relationship with ASEAN in a range of areas including security, culture, education and development.

Skyline, Melbourne
(Roberto Seba, Tourism Australia)



DID YOU KNOW?

Australia had the world's sixth highest GDP per capita in 2015 (US\$64,863).

Australia is active in many global and regional institutions. It was a founding member of the United Nations and is among the leading contributors to the UN's regular and peacekeeping budgets.

In its international economic engagement, Australia aims to build greater prosperity for Australia and the world. To achieve this, Australia supports efforts to liberalise trade, boost economic growth, encourage investments and assist business through economic diplomacy. >

AUSTRALIA IS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO BUILDING A RULES-BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER WHICH ADVANCES AND PROTECTS THE INTERESTS OF ALL NATIONS AND PEOPLES. AUSTRALIA PLAYS AN ACTIVE ROLE IN A WIDE ARRAY OF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL GROUPS, INCLUDING THE:

- > United Nations (UN)
- > Group of twenty major economies (G20)
- > World Trade Organization (WTO)
- > East Asia Summit (EAS)
- > East Asia Summit (EAS)
- > Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- > Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- > Commonwealth
- > Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- > Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
- > Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)
- > Forum for East Asia–Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC)
- > International climate change negotiations
- > Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM)



Australian Foreign Minister, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon share an exchange during the Security Council's High-Level Meeting on Small Arms, 26 September 2013 (Trevor Collens, DFAT)

> Australia's foreign and trade policy focuses on strengthening its already significant engagement with countries in the dynamic Indo-Pacific region. As a founding member of APEC and an active participant in the East Asia Summit, Australia is helping to build regional institutions that foster stability, security and prosperity across the region.

Australia has close, longstanding bilateral ties with Indonesia, as well as strong ties with the other member nations of ASEAN. Australia also has significant relations with India and with the major states of Northeast Asia—China, Japan and the Republic of Korea—which are also major markets.

Beyond its region, Australia enjoys strong economic, security, political, social and cultural ties with the United States and Canada, and continues to build on its strong and longstanding political, cultural, trade, investment, and people-to-people

links with the United Kingdom and Europe. Australia is committed to a broad-based, creative partnership with the European Union, addressing the contemporary challenges of economic management and international trade, development, security, and international governance.

Australia has significant people-to-people links and growing trade and investment interests in the strategically important Middle East. In Africa, Australia has longstanding bilateral ties, especially with fellow Commonwealth nations, and growing trade and investment interests, particularly in the resources sector.

Australia's connections with Latin American countries are expanding in a range of international forums, including in the WTO. Australia also has warm relations with Caribbean countries built on strong historical and cultural foundations.

TRADE

Trade liberalisation and economic reform have been at the heart of Australian Government policy for decades.



Iron ore ship at Port Hedland (BHP Billiton)

DID YOU KNOW?
Australia is the world's largest exporter of iron ore.

Until the 1960s, Britain and the United States were Australia's main trading partners. Today the emphasis of Australia's trade has shifted to Asia, with four out of five of Australia's top trading partners located there. China, Japan, the United States, and the Republic of Korea are now Australia's largest trading partners.

Australia has a very open market with minimal restrictions on imports of goods and services. This has increased productivity, stimulated growth and made the economy more flexible and dynamic.

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 and tourism, and professional and financial services. Services by Australian companies operating overseas provide a major contribution to Australia's economy.

Australia continues to push ahead with trade liberalisation—unilaterally, bilaterally and multilaterally. This will strengthen international economic collaboration, reduce the risks facing the global economy, and bolster growth. Australia plays an active role in the WTO, APEC, the G20 and other trade related forums. Australia has also negotiated bilateral and regional trade agreements with a wide range of countries to strengthen trade and investment flows. >

DID YOU KNOW?
Australian agriculture feeds 60 million people around the world each year.



Wheat harvest at Beverley (CBH)

51,000

51,000 AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSES EXPORT THEIR GOODS AND SERVICES TO THE WORLD

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

Australia has ten FTAs currently in force, with: New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, US, Chile, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) (with New Zealand), Malaysia, Korea, Japan and China. The countries with whom Australia has these FTAs account for 67 per cent of Australia's total two-way trade. Australia and 11 other countries also successfully concluded negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement in late 2015 and signed the TPP in Auckland on 4 February 2016.

Australia is engaged in six FTA negotiations—two bilateral FTA negotiations with India and Indonesia, and four plurilateral FTA negotiations with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Pacific Trade and Economic Agreement (PACER Plus), and the Trade in Services Agreement.

DID YOU KNOW?

73 per cent of Australia's trade is with countries in the APEC group.

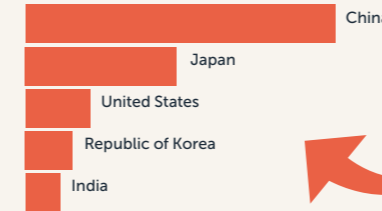
Australian beef on sale in Korea (MLA)



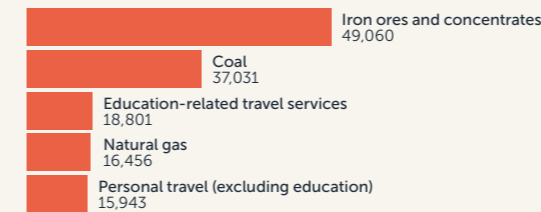
A\$316.6b

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS

TOP 5 EXPORT MARKETS



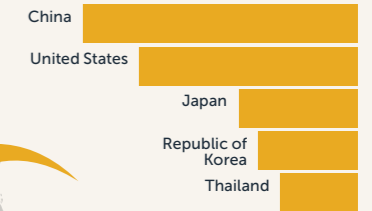
TOP 5 EXPORTS A\$M



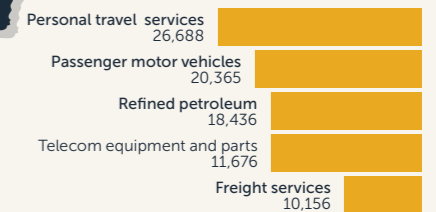
A\$352.7b


TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS

TOP 5 IMPORT MARKETS



TOP 5 IMPORTS A\$M





Coal mine in the Bowen Basin
(BHP Billiton)

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 and gold. Australia is also a major supplier of energy, including coal, natural gas and uranium.

In 2015, the mining sector accounted for approximately 9 per cent of the Australian economy (based on industry value added at basic prices) and minerals and fuels accounted for 42 per cent of Australia's exports.

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 90 per cent of Australia's iron ore and metallurgical coal production is exported with a combined value of A\$70 billion in 2015.

www.austrade.gov.au
www.dfat.gov.au/trade

GROWTH

Economic growth, driven by the private sector and supported by trade liberalisation, is a key objective of Australia's engagement with the world. Strong economies are an important shaper of prosperity, security, stability and peace.



Workers on a building site
(Austrade)

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia is currently ranked fifth on the Index of Economic Freedom.



Sunset, Barossa Valley, South Australia
(Adam Bruzzone, Tourism Australia)



Flags of the G20 nations

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia is the leader of the Cairns Group in the World Trade Organization. The group of 19 countries from the Americas, Africa, Asia and the Pacific works to free up agricultural trade.

Through its membership of international economic institutions, Australia actively promotes open trade to encourage global economic growth and job creation.

As president of the G20 in 2014, Australia led the push for G20 members to grow their gross domestic product by an additional two per cent by 2019. This would add nearly US\$2 trillion dollars to the global economy and create millions of jobs.

Australia's aid program promotes sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in developing countries. Aid investments help expand the capacity of countries to trade their products, encourage economic growth to create jobs, and empower women and girls to better participate in the economy.

Domestically, Australia is working to reduce government debt, remove unnecessary taxes and cut regulations and costs for business. This will ensure Australia remains an attractive destination for international investment so our economy can continue to grow and develop new industries.

AUSTRALIA AND THE G20

As a member of the G20, Australia influences decisions relating to the global economy. Australia's strong financial sector and effective system of financial regulation means Australia is well placed to make a strong contribution to the G20's work. Through its membership of the G20, Australia is also strengthening its engagement with the world's major economies.

INVESTMENT

Foreign investment is crucial to Australia's economy. It improves competition and productivity, encourages innovation and gives Australia opportunities to diversify and expand its economy, create more jobs and contribute more broadly to regional and global markets.



Collaborative meeting in drug substance manufacturing (Amgen)

Australia's highly skilled workforce, robust economy, trusted legal system and stable society make the country an attractive location for foreign investors. The stock of foreign investment in Australia was A\$3 trillion at the end of 2015.

A large number of foreign companies are registered in Australia and many have developed close links with local firms. This has generated cooperation on research and development and resulted in Australian companies becoming integral parts of regional and global supply chains.

One of the world's largest biotech companies, AMGEN from California, invests about A\$35 million in local research and development in Australia annually and has been conducting clinical trials in Australia for over 20 years. The company markets eight products in Australia for the treatment of cancer, kidney disease, bone disease and other serious illnesses and employs nearly 150 people in five cities around the country.

FIVE REASONS TO INVEST IN AUSTRALIA

01



25 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED ANNUAL GROWTH

Australia's strong, diverse and growing economy adds up to more opportunities.

02



WORLD-CLASS INNOVATION

Australia's quality research institutions and commitment to innovation make it a proven destination for bringing new ideas to life.

03



WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING REGION

With strong trade links, strategic location and a highly educated, multilingual workforce, Australia is uniquely positioned as a location to do business in the Indo-Pacific.

04



EASY TO RUN A BUSINESS


A well-regulated and transparent commercial environment makes it easy to establish and operate a business in Australia.

05



HIGHLY SKILLED WORKFORCE

Australia's multilingual workforce is among the most educated in the world.

 www.austrade.gov.au

BUSINESS

Australia's strong economic performance, combined with its proximity to and experience in working with Asian nations, makes Australia an excellent place to do business. Its economic resilience and strong growth rate create opportunities for business in a safe, low-risk environment.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2015, Australia was ranked by the World Bank as one of the fastest places in the world in which to start a new business—it can take just three days.



A business meeting on Kangaroo Island
(Adam Taylor, Tourism Australia)

40

ALMOST 40 PER CENT OF AUSTRALIA'S
WORKFORCE HOLDS A TERTIARY
QUALIFICATION

From the resources sector to high-end agribusiness, higher education, the services sector and medical research, Australian businesses are keen to collaborate with partners at home and overseas.

Australia has one of the most educated, multicultural and multilingual workforces in the world.

Its research institutions are world class and there are generous tax incentives for research and development.

FOREIGN AID

Australia's aid program is dedicated to promoting prosperity, reducing poverty and enhancing stability through sustainable economic growth.



Weaver at the Australian Government supported Dhaka weaving centre, Nepal (Jim Holmes, DFAT)

DID YOU KNOW?

The Indo-Pacific is the focus of Australia's aid program. Contributing to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in our neighbourhood is a key part of Australia's foreign policy, and compliments our diplomatic, trade and security efforts.

The focus of Australia's aid program is on its neighbourhood, where it can make the most difference. More than 90 per cent of bilateral and regional funding will be invested in the Indo-Pacific region.

Australia works with the private sector, and promotes private sector growth in partner countries, to create jobs, boost incomes and increase economic security.

The priority areas for Australia's aid investments are:

- > Infrastructure, trade facilitation and international competitiveness
- > Agriculture, fisheries and water
- > Effective governance
- > Education and health
- > Building resilience
- > Gender equality and empowering women and girls.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2016–17, Australia will provide \$3.8 billion in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing nations.



An artist's impression of the Cao Lanh bridge in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. Australia is investing \$160 million in the design and construction of the bridge which is expected to open in 2017 (Australian Embassy Vietnam)

TOURISM

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. More than seven million visitors came to Australia last year, attracted by world-class food and wine, beautiful beaches, unique flora and fauna, friendly people and a relaxed atmosphere.

DID YOU KNOW?

International visitors spent more than 248 million nights in Australia in 2015.





Poacher's Way
(Adrian Brown, Tourism Australia)



Seppeltsfield Wines
(Adrian Brown, Tourism Australia)



Yering Station wine,
(Roberto Seba, Tourism Australia)



Yarra Valley Dairy
(Roberto Seba, Tourism Australia)

Tourism is one of Australia's biggest export industries, adding more than A\$37.9 billion to the economy in 2015-16 and employing nearly one million people. With 46 cents in every tourism dollar spent in regional areas, tourism is important to both metropolitan and regional communities.

In 2014-15, a record 7.1 million people visited Australia from overseas. The greatest number

came from New Zealand, followed by China, Great Britain, the United States, Singapore and Japan. Around 40 per cent of all spending by tourists in Australia was by Asian visitors, and that market is continuing to grow. Chinese tourists are particularly interested in Australia and over the past decade the number of Chinese tourists has tripled. The number of visitors from India is also rapidly increasing.

Food and wine tourism is expanding, in line with Australia's growing international reputation as a producer of high-quality wines and a supplier of fresh, regionally produced food.

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia was one of the first western nations to be awarded 'approved destination status' by China. This scheme provides streamlined travel arrangements for organised tour groups from China to Australia.

STUDY IN AUSTRALIA

Education is Australia's largest services export. In 2016, more than 440,000 international students were studying and living in Australia, adding A\$19.5 billion to the Australian economy.



International student
(Austrade, Future Unlimited)

DID YOU KNOW?

More than half of Australia's universities are listed in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking (2015-16) and six are in the top 100.

International students are attracted to Australia by its high standard of teaching, its internationally accepted qualifications, and its welcoming and diverse society.

Australia has more than one thousand universities, training colleges, English language institutes and schools, offering international students some 25,000 courses. The quality of Australia's vocational education and training sector is recognised around the world.

Six Australian universities were named among the world's top 100 higher education institutions in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015-16. 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. In May 2014, Sydney was ranked the most popular city in the world for international students by global consultancy firm A. T. Kearney.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In 2015 there were almost 500,000 international students studying in Australia (a ten per cent increase over 2014 figures).

Students from China contributed 27.3 per cent of all international students in Australia, the highest of any nationality. India was



The inaugural Yudhoyono Fellow, Emma Roberts (centre) will study in Indonesia in 2015 under the New Colombo Plan (ANU)

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia is the world's third most popular destination for international students behind the US, and the UK.

THE NEW COLOMBO PLAN

The New Colombo Plan is a flagship Australian Government initiative providing opportunities for Australian undergraduate students to study and undertake internships in 38 locations throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

The New Colombo 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 is supporting thousands of students each year to study and undertake work-based experiences in the region through student mobility grants and scholarships.

www.australiaawards.gov.au
www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan

second, contributing 10.8 per cent and Vietnam third with 4.4 per cent.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING

Australia's English language schools offer various services. They range from short courses for students visiting Australia as part of a holiday; to formal courses to prepare for accredited levels of English recognised by education and immigration authorities around the world. In 2014, students from all over the world came to Australia to study English. 66 per cent of overseas enrolments in English language intensive courses in 2014 were from Asian countries, including China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and Taiwan.

AUSTRALIA AWARDS

Education has the power to transform lives and create enduring social and economic impact. The Australian Government's Australia Awards are prestigious scholarships and fellowships that strive to develop leadership potential and stimulate lasting change.

Each year they offer about 4,000 of the best and the brightest emerging leaders from around the world 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 that links Australia, its regional neighbours and the international community.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY

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



HMAS Newcastle
(Department of Defence)

Australia's response to security challenges, such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, cyber threats, maritime security and weak and failing states, 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 global order and the United Nations, are all key elements of Australia's approach.

Bilaterally, the alliance with the United States remains vital. Long-term links with New Zealand, and growing ties with Indonesia, Japan and the Republic of Korea are increasingly valued in pursuing common strategic interests.

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia's defence force has more than 80,000 full time personnel and reservists, making it the largest military in the Oceania region.

Australia also has longstanding and valuable defence ties with Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. Australia has growing and productive relationships with India, China and Vietnam.

Australia provides assistance to Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and other Pacific Island countries, helping them maintain stability and protect their security. Australia is also working with countries in South-East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and Africa on law enforcement and counter-terrorism to help build their capacity in this area.

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 International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, and recently announced further financial assistance to help develop Afghanistan's security forces.



Australia will continue to contribute to Afghanistan's security and stability post-2014. Australia is also a leader in global efforts for non-proliferation and disarmament, and counter-terrorism.

PEACE AND HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS

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).

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

www.defence.gov.au
www.dfat.gov.au

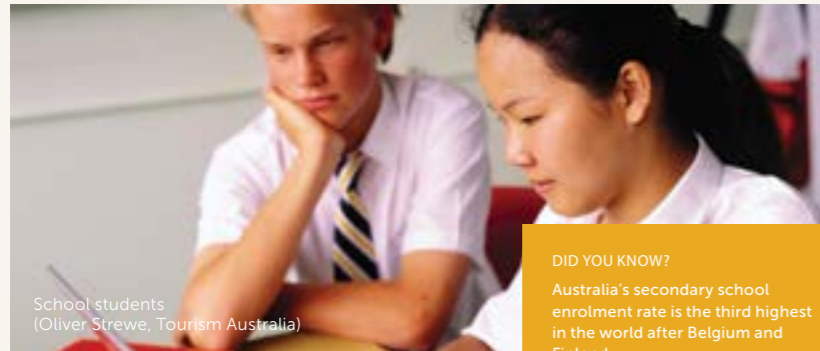


Australian Volunteers from HMAS Parramatta help repair the Tuvaruhu Public School in Solomon Islands after devastating floods in 2014 (Department of Defence)

Society and Culture

EDUCATION

In Australia, education starts in the years before formal schooling, with many child care services and preschools receiving government funding.



School students
(Oliver Strewe, Tourism Australia)

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia's secondary school enrolment rate is the third highest in the world after Belgium and Finland.

Australian students participate in formal school education from the age of five or six to around 18, with many going on to tertiary education. The public and private education sectors are working together to close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage and improve outcomes in Indigenous education.

Australia's vocational education and training system provides students with the skills required in a modern labour market, and delivers competency-based training that is practical and career orientated. The Australian higher education system has both public and private universities. Some universities have campuses in other countries. There are Australian branches of overseas universities and other higher education providers as well.

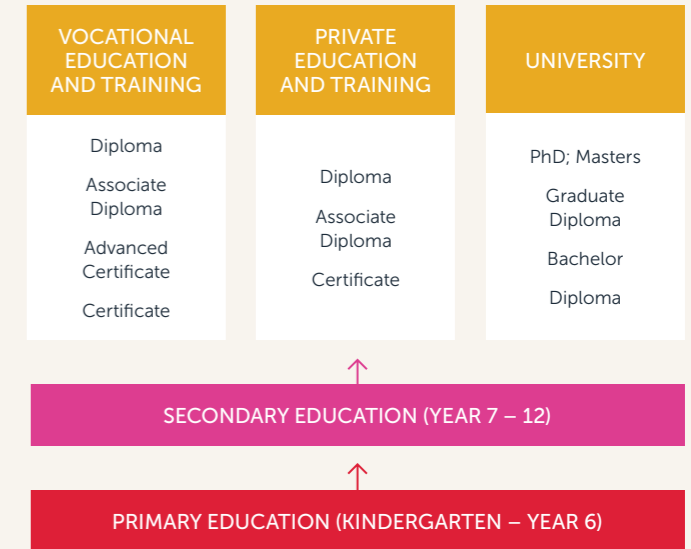


Indigenous school children from the Ngukurr School in the Northern Territory droving community cattle (Newslines)

SCHOOL OF THE AIR

Australia is home to some of the most geographically isolated and remote communities in the world. School of the Air allows children in remote communities and living on isolated properties to 'attend' school via a computer. Various communication technologies are used to provide daily contact between students, home tutors (often parents) and teachers.

STAGES OF AUSTRALIA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM



INNOVATION

Australia's development has been forged through its enterprising spirit—the resilience, creativity and unquenchable desire to succeed. Australian innovations have improved the lives of billions—from the black box flight recorder to Google Maps, from Wi-Fi technology to the bionic ear, from spray-on skin to a vaccine for cervical cancer.

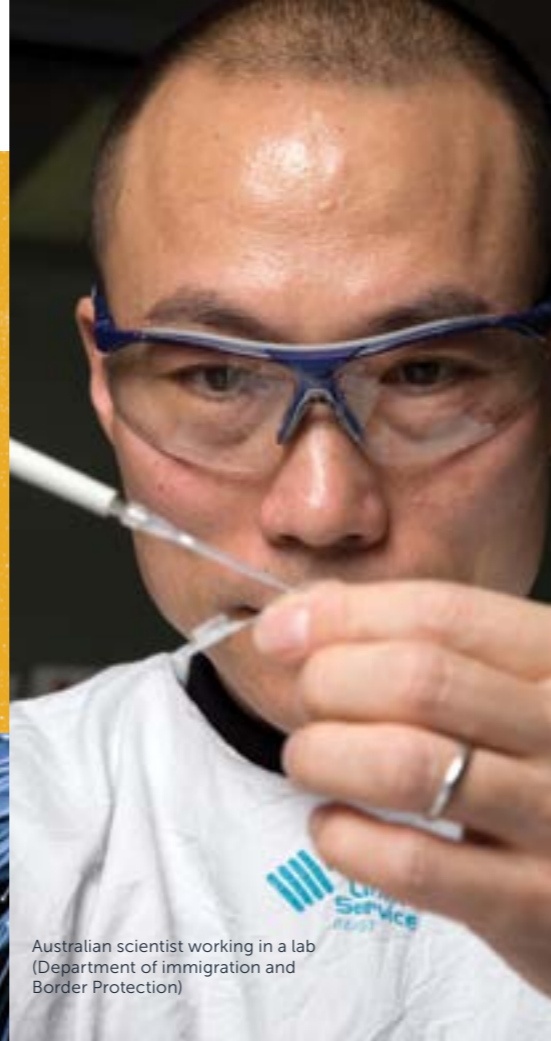
Australia has also developed and implemented a National Innovation and Science Agenda that will drive smart ideas to create business growth, local jobs and global success.

DID YOU KNOW?

Australia has produced 14 Nobel laureates.

Some recent Australian laureates are:

- > Brian P Schmidt, Physics, 2011
- > Elizabeth H Blackburn, Physiology or Medicine, 2009
- > Barry J Marshall, Physiology or Medicine, 2005
- > J Robin Warren, Physiology or Medicine, 2005



Australian scientist working in a lab (Department of immigration and Border Protection)

DID YOU KNOW?

Five CSIRO scientists invented wireless LAN technology, these days known as WiFi, which is now used in over 5 billion devices around the world.

Australia's research institutions are among the world's best and offer unsurpassed opportunities for industry partnerships. Australian scientists collaborate internationally in many fields from coral reef management to medicine. In 2012, Australia won the right to co-host, with South Africa, the world's largest radio telescope, the Square Kilometre Array, which will give astronomers new insights into the universe.

Business expenditure on research and development is increasingly recognising Australia's research excellence: it has more than tripled in the last decade reaching A\$18.8 billion in 2013–14.

Australia has always been an early adopter of innovations and new technologies and is a global leader in many sectors, with 15 out of 20 industries having productivity levels above global averages. An increasing number of innovative international companies have recognised these strengths and established facilities in Australia. In 2014, more than 18,000 international companies were registered in Australia and many are involved in specific product development initiatives with Australians for example Boeing, Canon, IBM, GE and Baosteel.




www.csiro.au

www.industry.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN INVENTIONS

Black box flight recorder	
Bionic ear	
High speed Wi-Fi	
Google Maps	
Gardasil cervical cancer vaccine	
Influenza treatment drug Relenza	
Aspro	
Pacemaker	
Plastic disposable syringe	
Dual-flush toilet	
Anti-counterfeiting technology for banknotes	
Spray-on skin for burns victims	



THE SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY WILL BE THE LARGEST AND MOST CAPABLE RADIO TELESCOPE EVER CONSTRUCTED. THE ARRAY WILL BE CO-HOSTED IN TWO LOCATIONS WITH CENTRAL ARRAY SITES IN AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

Artists rendition of the Square Kilometre Array in operation at night time (SKA Organisation)

SPORT

Australians love sport. There are more than 140 national sporting organisations and thousands of local, regional and state sports bodies.



The Nullarbor Links—the world's longest golf course. It covers 1,365 kilometres along the Eyre Highway between Ceduna in South Australia and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia. There is a hole at each participating town or roadhouse

Community-based sport across the nation underpins Australia's remarkable sporting achievements at the elite level where many international champions have been produced in many sports. The nation unites when Australians play on the international stage. Sport is a powerful force in creating social harmony in a nation made up of people from so many different countries.

Successive governments have committed to supporting sport in Australia from grassroots to elite, 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 disadvantage and social inclusion challenges.

Almost all the world's sports are played somewhere in Australia, with men and women well represented in sporting activities across the nation. Football (soccer) and netball are the biggest team sports in Australia. Three other football codes are also popular throughout the country: rugby league, rugby union and Australia's own unique brand of Australian rules football. Cricket, tennis, golf, swimming, field hockey and cycling are also popular.

The Australian Sports Commission promotes and funds grassroots participation in sport. It also invests in high-performance sport, including through scholarships for athletes in facilities such as the Australian Institute of Sport, based in Canberra.



www.ausport.gov.au

www.health.gov.au

SPORTING EVENTS

Australia has a reputation for staging successful major sporting events. It has hosted the summer Olympics twice (Melbourne 1956 and Sydney 2000), the Commonwealth Games four times (Sydney 1938, Perth 1962, Brisbane 1982 and Melbourne 2006), the 2015 Cricket World Cup, the 2015 World Netball Championships, and the 2015 Asian Football Confederation Cup. Queensland's Gold Coast will also host the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Other international events are staged annually around Australia such as the gruelling 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. >

Silver medal winner in Canoe Slalom at the 2012 London Olympics, Jessica Fox (Australian Sports Commission)

DID YOU KNOW?

The Australian Institute of Sport is a world best practice model for high-performance athlete development. It bases its activities on outstanding athlete results combined with skilled coaches, world-class facilities and cutting-edge sports science and sports medicine services.



Australian Soccerroo Brett Holman (right) playing against Bahrain in the 2011 Asian Cup in Qatar

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2015, Australia hosted the AFC Asian Cup. With 15 countries vying for the title of Asia's best football team, it was the biggest football tournament ever staged in Australia. The 23-day event attracted approximately 45,000 international visitors to Australia and reached a television audience of more than 2.5 billion, making it the most watched Asian Football Cup in history.



(Australian Sports Commission)



(Australian Sports Commission)



(Australian Sports Commission)

DID YOU KNOW?
Almost all of the world's sports are played in Australia.

(Australian Sports Commission)



CREATIVE AUSTRALIA

Australia has one of the oldest continuous cultures in the world—that of the Aboriginal peoples—and at the same time has one of the most diverse cultures, being home to people from all corners of the globe. This unique make-up permeates Australia's culture and how it expresses its identity, including in the creative arts.

Australia has many publicly run galleries, museums and performance spaces, from the World Heritage listed Opera House in Sydney and world-class national galleries and museums in Canberra, to history museums and galleries in country towns. The Australia Council provides government funding to artists and arts organisations and Screen Australia supports Australia's film industry.

Private sector arts philanthropy is growing in Australia. Tasmania's innovative Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) is privately funded, and generous private support helped to create the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra. >

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2014, Australia's Cate Blanchett won an Academy Award for best actress.



Cate Blanchett at the G'day USA Gala 2014 (DFAT)



Bangarra performer Leonard Mickelo in 'of earth & sky' (Jason Capobianco, Bangarra Dance Theatre)



MONA, Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart (MONA)



Circus Oz 2014: But Wait...There's More!
(Rob Blackburn)



Opera Australia's 'The Elixir of Love'
(Georges Antoni, Opera Australia)



The Aboriginal Memorial at the National Gallery of Australia,
Canberra (Adrian Brown, Tourism Australia)

Australia's creative industries have built a global reputation for innovation, talent and energy and play an important role in the Australian economy. Almost 95 per cent of the population engages with the arts at least once a year.

Contemporary visual arts in Australia encompass photography, multimedia, sculpture, installations, drawings, paintings and performance art. Since the 1970s, the works of Indigenous artists have attracted international attention, featuring, for example, in the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris.

Australia's performing arts groups, musicians, dance troupes and theatre performers display the energy and diversity of Australia's arts and many are involved in international exchanges. Opera Australia and the Australian Ballet regularly undertake world tours. Smaller companies, such as dance

troupe Chunky Moves, have toured the Middle East and the Bangarra Dance Theatre, Circus Oz and others are recognised internationally for the quality of their productions.


Australian music is another big export and covers an extraordinary range, from classical to contemporary and children's entertainment. The Australian Chamber Orchestra regularly tours Europe and Japan, and guitarist Slava Grigoryan is one of a number of prominent classical musicians and composers who regularly tour and work overseas. An eclectic group of Australian contemporary artists have achieved international success, including AC/DC, Gotye, Nick Cave, INXS, Kylie Minogue, Keith Urban, and Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu.

Fashion Week in Sydney and Melbourne showcases to the world the best of Australian designers and

fashion brands: Akira Isogawa, Carla Zampatti, Alex Perry and Wayne Cooper.

Screen Australia's support for the film industry has resulted in many overseas film successes and Australian actors such as Cate Blanchett, Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman, Guy Pearce, Geoffrey Rush and Naomi Watts continue to receive international acclaim.

Australia's talented visual effects companies have worked on some of the world's biggest and most high-profile movies including The LEGO Movie, Gravity, Iron Man 3, Prometheus, The Avengers, Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows parts 1 and 2, and The Matrix trilogy.

 www.australiacouncil.gov.au
www.screenaustralia.gov.au

HEALTH CARE

The Australian health system is world class in effectiveness and efficiency: Australia consistently ranks in the World Health Organization's best performing group of countries for healthy life expectancy and health expenditure per person.

University of Melbourne physiotherapy student in clinic with a patient (University of Melbourne)



Medicare is Australia's public health system, providing free public hospital care and subsidies for primary care. Medicare ensures that all Australians have access to a broad range of quality health services at little or no cost. The Australian Government provides significant financing for the health system, working closely with state and territory governments with responsibility for on-the-ground delivery of hospital services. A private health sector complements the public system.

The non-Indigenous Australian population has a generally good health status with an average life expectancy at birth of 83 years (80 for men and 84 for women), one of the highest in the world. There are some groups with poor health status, and improving the life expectancy of Indigenous peoples is a national priority. Generally, the pattern of disease in Australia is similar to that of other developed countries.



A medical evacuation from Mount Ive Station, South Australia (Royal Flying Doctor Service)

THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

One of Australia's best known and respected institutions is the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The Flying Doctor is a charity that operates a fleet of more than 66 planes and 48 vehicles from 21 bases around the country. Every day doctors, nurses and paramedics fly large distances to attend to patients or conduct clinics in small towns or on remote properties. Often they escort patients back to larger centres for hospital and medical treatment. The Royal Flying Doctor Service began in 1928 and every year has more than 290,000 patient contacts a year—the equivalent of one every two minutes.



www.flyingdoctor.org.au
www.health.gov.au

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Australia has many media outlets. There are two national radio, television and online broadcasters that receive public funding—the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS).

The ABC is Australia's national public broadcaster. Founded in 1929, the ABC provides television, radio, online and mobile services across the country. Through its international charter, it also provides radio and television services to overseas audiences.

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 people.

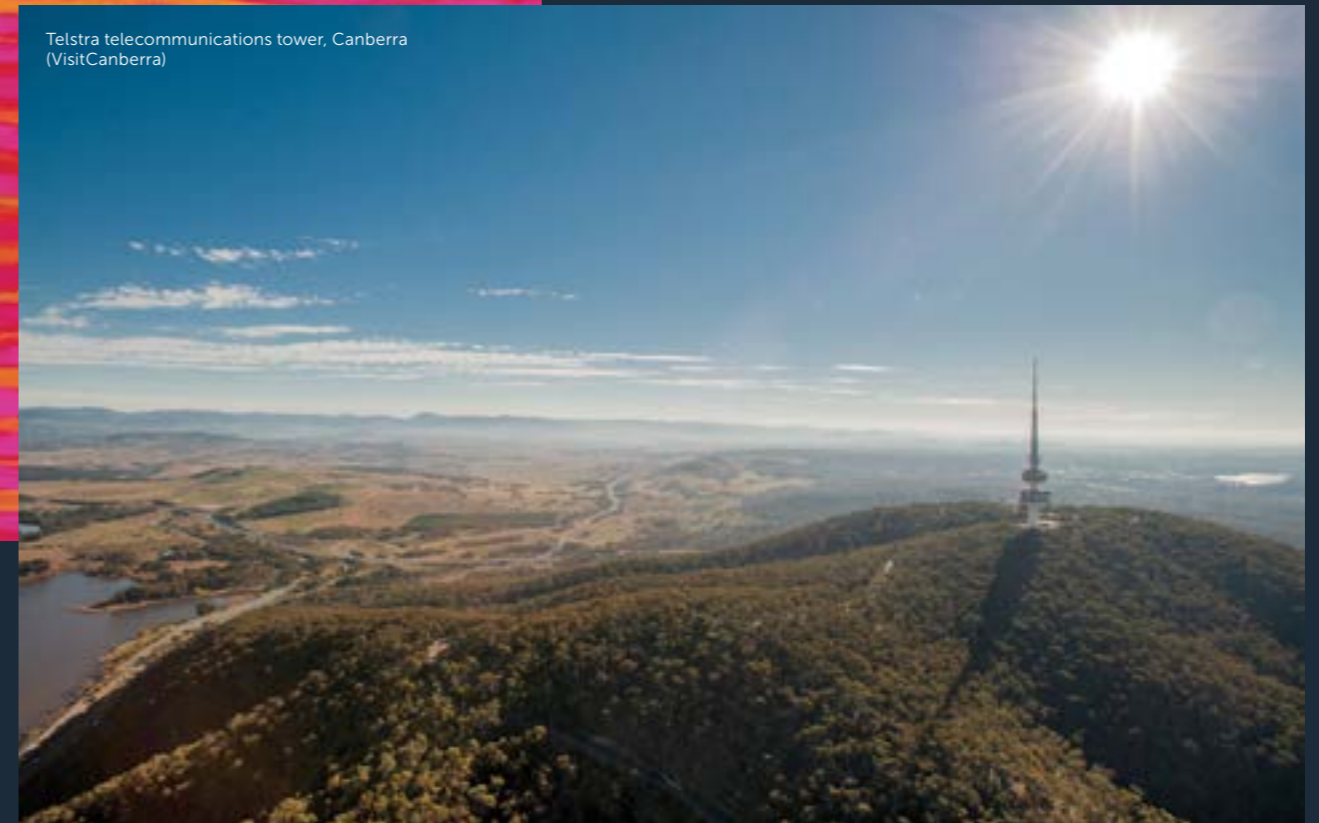
Australia also has three commercial free-to-air television networks, an indigenous commercial television station, hundreds of pay television channels, and many print, radio, digital and online media outlets.

(Austrade)

DID YOU KNOW?

83 per cent of Australia's population has access to the internet.

Telstra telecommunications tower, Canberra
(VisitCanberra)



Visiting Australia

VISA AND IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

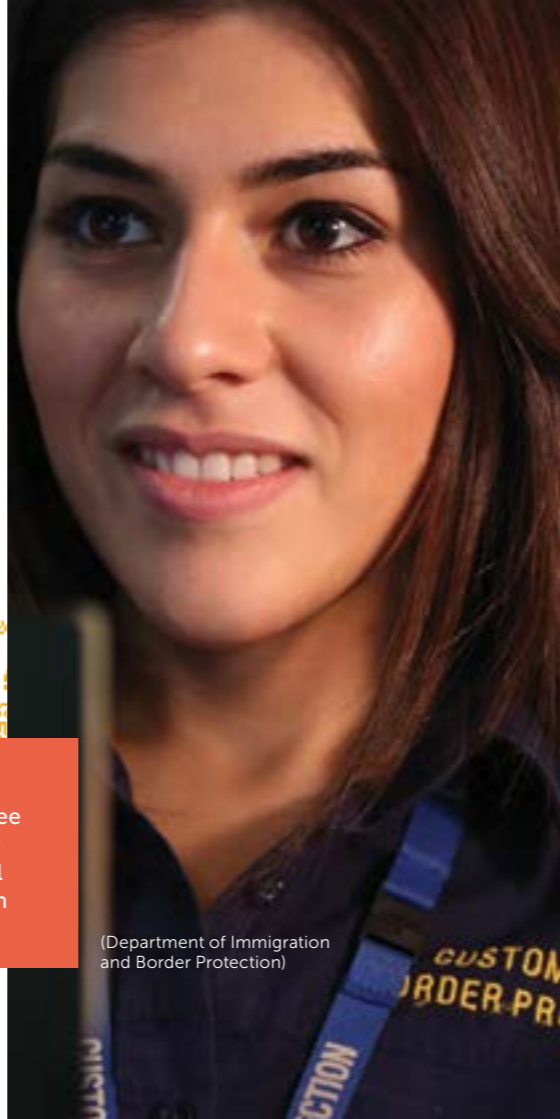
Australia welcomes millions of overseas visitors each year. Anyone who is not an Australian citizen needs a valid visa to enter and spend time here.

There are different visas for family and skilled migrants, tourists, business people, sports people, students and others. Many visas can be applied for online, and the Electronic Travel Authority can be applied for through travel agents and airlines. New Zealanders are granted an electronic visa on arrival in Australia.

DID YOU KNOW?

Australians and New Zealanders are free to visit, live and work in either country without restrictions. Freedom of travel is facilitated through the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangements of 1973.

(Department of Immigration and Border Protection)



Wheat crop in Victoria
(Carolyn Johns, Tourism Australia)

QUARANTINE

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 depends largely on the absence of these blights. The introduction of exotic pests and diseases could have serious environmental and economic consequences for Australia.

To protect human health and Australia's agriculture and tourism industries as well as its unique environment, Australia has stringent quarantine requirements.

All people, mail, cargo and vessels are screened before entering the country.

Travellers to Australia must declare anything made from plants or animals, including meat, dairy or other animal products, wooden articles, fruit, vegetables, seeds, nuts and live animals. The penalties for breaching Australia's quarantine laws include hefty fines or imprisonment.



www.daff.gov.au
www.immi.gov.au

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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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John McEwen Crescent
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Taku Rosie Tarko

As a young girl, Taku Rosie Tarko walked with her auntie and sister along the Canning Stock Route to Billiluna in Western Australia. The Canning Stock Route runs through hundreds of kilometres of rugged sandhill country. The long, reverberating lines in this painting represent the high red sandhills, or jilji, which are found throughout much of the Great Sandy Desert and Japingka, which is the artist's country.

Cover Image
Jilji 2007
by Taku Rosie Tarko,
Mangkaja Arts
Acrylic on canvas
119 x 89cm

from the collection
of the National
Museum of Australia
Photo George Serras,
National Museum of
Australia

Australia is a stable, democratic and culturally diverse nation with a highly skilled workforce and one of the strongest performing economies in the world.

With spectacular landscapes and a rich ancient culture, Australia is a land like no other. It is the earth's sixth-largest country in land area and is the only nation to govern an entire continent.

Australia in Brief provides an authoritative overview of Australia's history, the land, its people and their way of life. It also looks at Australia's economic, scientific and cultural achievements and its foreign, trade and defence policies.



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Australia
UNLIMITED