



16 August 2021

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) Inquiry
PO Box 573
Cooparoo, Queensland 4151

Via email: ipan.inquiry@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: People's Inquiry into the Costs and Consequences of Australia's involvement in US led wars and the US Alliance: Social and Community

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) is Australia's largest national union and professional nursing and midwifery organisation. In collaboration with the ANMF's eight state and territory branches, we represent the professional, industrial and political interests of more than 300,000 nurses, midwives and carers across the country.

Our members work in the public and private health, aged care and disability sectors across a wide variety of urban, rural and remote locations. We work with them to improve their ability to deliver safe and best practice care in each and every one of these settings, fulfil their professional goals and achieve a healthy work/life balance.

Our strong and growing membership and integrated role as both a professional and industrial organisation provide us with a complete understanding of all aspects of the nursing and midwifery professions and see us uniquely placed to defend and advance our professions.

Through our work with members we aim to strengthen the contribution of nursing and midwifery to improving Australia's health and aged care systems, and the health of our national and global communities.

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ANMF Journals

Australian Nursing and
Midwifery Journal (ANMJ)
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Australian Journal of
Advanced Nursing (AJAN)
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ABN 41 816 898 298



It is the position of the ANMF that health cannot be achieved without peace. Political unrest results in considerable cost to individuals and threatens freedom of access to health care, basic education, food, water, justice, shelter and a healthy environment. These are minimum humanitarian rights and must be protected.

To promote peace, the Australian Government must take every necessary action to protect Australia from going to war and avoid using force to settle political disagreement.

Historically, Australia has become involved in war in part due to alliances with the United States (US). The cost and consequences, for the health of people living in Australia, has been extensive with the effects traversing decades and generations.

Whilst, the ANMF support strengthened interoperability of US and Australian forces to respond to regional contingencies, such as Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief, the impact of Australia's relationship with the US cannot be ignored. The pursuit of peace should have priority over all political objectives and Australia must strive for military independence to uphold this priority.

Furthermore, each year significant public expenditure is invested in the defence sector. This is at the expense of greater investment in other sectors such as health, education and training, housing, communities and environment, and social security and welfare. The health system in Australia is under immense pressure. The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety is but one example that the health system in Australia is in urgent need of reform. It is imperative spending on defence in Australia aids Australian interests alone and is not to the detriment of expenditure on sectors that bolster the health and wellbeing of people living in Australia.

The ANMF urges the Australian Government to consider investment in military development that promotes peace and in doing so supports the health and wellbeing of people living in Australia. Please find enclosed, the ANMF Position Statement on Peace for your reference. Should you require further information on this matter, please contact Julianne Bryce, ANMF Senior Professional Officer at jbryce@anmf.org.au or on 0409 221 699.



Yours Sincerely

Annie Butler

Federal Secretary

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation

Encl.