



## MAPW - Health Professionals Promoting Peace

24 October, 2016

The Hon Julie Bishop MP  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Parliament House, Canberra

Dear Minister,

As health professionals, we recognise the catastrophic effects that any use of nuclear weapons would have on human populations and the environment. Our professions would have very little to offer any survivors of such an event; no meaningful medical or disaster relief response would be possible. No other weapons ever invented can cause as much death, suffering and destruction as quickly, or leave such widespread and persisting toxicity in the environment.

We join with health professionals around the world in declaring that the only way to prevent these horrific devices ever being used again is to abolish them. We therefore strongly support the global efforts of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, the World Medical Association, the World Federation of Public Health Associations, the International Council of Nurses, the Red Cross/Crescent movement and many other bodies that call for a new treaty to explicitly prohibit nuclear weapons, just as chemical and biological weapons have been prohibited.

Any Australian opposition to a nuclear weapons ban treaty places Australia out of step with rapidly growing global momentum to achieve such a treaty. It disregards the overwhelming evidence that these weapons will be used again, with catastrophic consequences, unless they are abolished. It places us on the wrong side of history. As health professionals we regard such opposition as irresponsible in the extreme.

We call on the Australian Government to support the banning of the world's most destructive and inhumane weapons, nuclear weapons, as a crucial step to hasten their total elimination.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Margaret Beavis MBBS, FRACGP, MPH**

**National President**

Medical Association for Prevention of War

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## Signatories

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International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Associate professor - Nossal Institute for Global Health, School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne

International Medical Advisor - Australian Red Cross

**Frederick Arthur Mendelsohn AO MD PhD FRACP FAA**, Emeritus Professor, University of Melbourne.

**Emeritus Professor Ian Maddocks AM**, Flinders University, Senior Australian of the year 2013

**Donald Allen Simpson AO**, D Univ, MD, MS, FRCS, FRACS - Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Adelaide (retired) Emeritus Neurosurgeon, Royal Adelaide Hospital & Women's & Children's Hospitals Senior member, Neurosurgical Society of Australasia Honorary Member of the Neurosurgical Society of Vietnam. Former Private [3rd Field Ambulance] and later Captain RAAMC

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