

**MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION
FOR PREVENTION
OF WAR**



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Celebrating 40 years of action for peace and health
1981- 2021

1981



2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

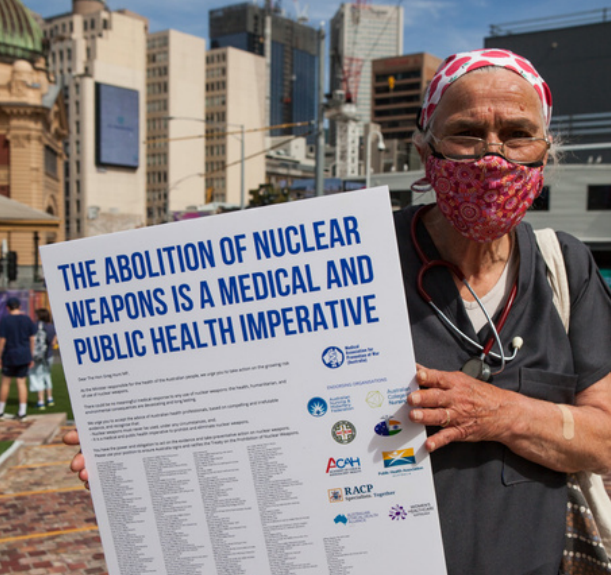
FREMANTLE, WA



**ENTRY INTO FORCE: TREATY ON THE
PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**
22 JANUARY 2021

**ENTRY
INTO** 22-01-2021
**FORCE
DAY**

MELBOURNE, VIC



FREMANTLE, WA

ADELAIDE, SA



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MELBOURNE, VIC



© photography by Fernando M. Gonçalves



CANBERRA, ACT

CANBERRA, ACT



40 YEARS OF ACTION FOR PEACE AND HEALTH 1981 -2021



TEXT

This organisation – and those who dedicate themselves so tirelessly to its principles – has done more than any other to highlight the growing militarisation of Australian culture, politics and history.

MAPW Australia's endless often unheralded work in the promotion of peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons deserves ongoing global acknowledgment and praise.



Paul Daley, Author + Journalist

TEXT



I want to congratulate MAPW on 40 years of outstanding work as advocates for peace. Their excellent work includes calling for the reduction of militarism and abolishing the things that threaten human life, like brutal land mines and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. There is no longer any justification for war, if, indeed, there ever was. War has outlived its usefulness and never achieves whatever we think it can achieve. Keep up the essential and courageous work

Tim Costello AO



“ **In the absence of political leadership, leadership has to come from civil society.** ”

Congratulations to MAPW Australia as its members celebrate 40 years. In ancient times 40 years was considered time fulfilled! However, MAPW is only just hitting its stride with so much more to be done.

It would be wonderful if its work were no longer needed but sadly that is not the case. The calamitous disaster of Afghanistan is reminder enough that in modern warfare there is never a victor, only increased suffering. Nuclear wars and climate change are the two contemporary threats with capacity to destroy life as we know it. Both require resolve and determination from good and committed people to ensure their threat does not cause darkness to fall, not simply on humanity but on the planet itself. In the absence of political leadership, leadership has to come from civil society.

All humans invest. Many invest in wealth. Some invest in power. Civilization is dependent on the majority investing in equity and justice upon which an international framework of peace is built.

Thank you MAPW for your investment in peace.

Bishop George Browning PhD DLitt

“ **Thanks to MAPW for invaluable insights, tireless agitations...** ”



The self- congratulatory and self-justification narrative, in regards to our involvement in Afghanistan, coming out of defence, immigration and cabinet is shameful. Well beyond time to stop polishing and flogging it to death.

Thanks to MAPW for invaluable insights, tireless agitations and contributions to humanitarian work and peace, to break this hollow narrative that delivers a cycle of violence and misery.

Kellie Merritt widow of Flight Lt Paul Pardoel who was killed in Afghanistan

QUITNUKES.ORG

QUIT NUKES

“ Super funds lambasted over nuclear holdings

Financial Standard

“ Top super funds remain invested in banned nuclear weapons

Independent Financial Advisor

Quit Nukes is MAPW's divestment campaign, a collaboration with ICAN Australia.

Divestment is an integral part of progress towards the total abolition of nuclear weapons: divestment decreases financial flows, increases stigma, and reduces the social licence of companies that profit from the production of weapons of mass destruction. In 2021, Quit Nukes produced a **landmark report** into the policy and practice of Australian superannuation funds.

Together with the Australia Institute, the Quit Nukes team assessed 22 funds that hold over 80% of all superannuation funds under management and represent over 80% of all superannuation members in Australia (excluding self-managed super funds).

Key findings included:

- Most Australian super funds have holdings in nuclear weapons producers
- Nine funds highlight their exclusion of controversial weapons, but do not include



In February 2021, Quit Nukes verified U Ethical as a provider of nuclear weapon free finance.

U Ethical is an investment manager originally established in 1985 by the Uniting Church, and is one of the largest ethical investment managers in Australia with over \$1 billion under management.

“ *U Ethical Investors has resolutely excluded companies involved in the production of nuclear weapons from its investable universe. Long cognisant of the risks of both military and civilian use of nuclear technology, a desire to avoid involvement with uranium mining provided the impetus for the creation of our first funds in the late 1970s. I look forward to a world free of from the destructive threat of nuclear weapons.*

Matthew Browning
Chief Executive Officer, U Ethical

- (cont'd) nuclear weapons in the definition, so continue to invest in nuclear weapons companies
- Three funds exclude nuclear weapons from their “socially or environmentally responsible” options only
- Divestment from nuclear weapons companies is compatible with trustee fiduciary duty as it not expected to have any material impact on super fund returns to members

The report demonstrates clear ethical, legal, reputational and fiduciary reasons for divestment and shows there is no material benefit to members from continued investment in nuclear weapons producers.

The report, along with outreach and engagement by the Quit Nukes team, has been instrumental in several funds' decisions to review holdings and policies, and – in some cases – to make changes in line with Quit Nukes' recommendations.

We are grateful to the Quit Nukes team – MP, MB, RK, GR, JM and JG. Thanks to the Jessie Street Trust, whose seeding grant in 2019 enabled the launch of this campaign.

“ **Strong returns from ethical funds show that divesting from nuclear weapons companies is not just the right thing to do - it is also the financially sound thing to do.**

Ben Oquist
Executive Director, The Australia Institute

Verve
SUPER



FUTURE SUPER

Christian Super

In June 2021, Quit Nukes coordinated an open letter, signed by Verve Super, Crescent Wealth, Christian Super and Future Super, to the Responsible Investment Association of Australasia (RIAA), calling for an update of Certification Standards for ethical funds.

Existing standards did not require the exclusion of nuclear weapons, despite their illegality and status as disproportionate weapons of mass destruction.

In November 2021, the RIAA committed to update their Responsible Investment Standard. Nuclear weapons will now be included in the definition of ‘controversial weapons’, meaning nuclear weapons producers must be excluded from all financial products that seek certification by RIAA.

AUKUS

“ The nuclear weapons proliferation potential of this deal will be significant. A government assurance on the matter is totally inadequate.

Dr Sue Wareham

In September 2021, Australians were surprised by the announcement of a new military pact between Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS), and the proposed acquisition by Australia of nuclear-powered submarines.

MAPW immediately called for **full and proper scrutiny** of the pact by the parliament and the people, arguing that the full implications of such a major development for Australian security and sovereignty, the nuclear proliferation risks, and the potential for domestic nuclear capability, must be subject to debate and proper decision-making processes. MAPW assessed that nuclear-powered submarines would increase tensions and militarisation across Asia and the Pacific region, fuel an arms race, and risk deepening a new cold war involving China.

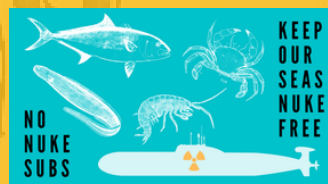
While PM Scott Morrison asserted that the AUKUS deal did not mean Australia would acquire nuclear weapons, MAPW called for the PM to build trust in the assertion by immediately committing to sign and ratify the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**.

MAPW joined with International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War affiliates Medact (UK) and Physicians for Social Responsibility (USA), to express grave concern for AUKUS' implications for human health and global security in a **joint statement** and **briefing paper**.

In December 2021, MAPW **gave evidence** to the parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Treaties on the Exchange of Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information Agreement (ENNPIA).

MAPW also **conducted an assessment** of existing safety plans and systems in Australian ports approved to receive **nuclear powered warships** and found significant variation in the scope and quality of safety plans, as well as **gaps** in accident modelling to account for the proposed stationing of sovereign nuclear powered ships. Many thanks to **Darcy Lawler** from the University of Sydney, who joined MAPW on an MD elective, for conducting this research.

Throughout 2021, MAPW members took part in numerous public forums on AUKUS, sharing information about the implications for health and human security.



AIMING FOR PREVENTION

MAPW's Aiming for Prevention (A4P) campaign mobilises the expertise and authority of health professionals to prevent the harms of the global weapons industry.

In 2021, A4P continued to advocate on key issues:

- Weapons industry influence and social licence
- Harms of Australian arms exports

Weapons industry influence and social licence

Partnerships, sponsorships, grants and other forms of financial support are integral to the weapons industry's **social licence** to operate and are intended to obscure the industry's harmful effects. **Influence over children's attitudes** to the weapons industry is key to its continued operation.

Our 2020 report *Minors & Missiles* demonstrated that global weapons companies have significant influence over Australian STEM education, and seek to **influence children as young as four** to have a positive view of the arms industry. In 2021, A4P conducted research and advocacy on **state education policies** governing corporate partnerships and protection of children from harmful industries. We presented our work on the issue at the 2021 Disrupt Land Forces action in Brisbane, and were featured on community media.

In 2021, we continued our work to highlight partnerships between the weapons industry and national institutions and charitable organisations.



INFLUENCE FOR PEACE

The global arms industry has a devastating impact on human rights, compounds security challenges, damages economies and environments, and profits from militaristic solutions to global problems.

The industry is a major recruiter of engineers, and seeks to influence engineering students to have positive view of their core business. In 2021, thanks to the support of a generous donor, we launched a pilot partnership with **Engineers Without Borders**. The Influence for Peace program aims to equip students to apply a peacebuilding lens to their careers, and to empower engineers to engage in the prevention of war and promotion of global peace.

MAPW supported three talented students in their final year of education to participate in training and receive professional mentorship.

A4P has particularly focused on problematic financial relationships between the Australian War Memorial (AWM) and some of the world's biggest weapons companies.

Since 2019 A4P had been mobilising supporters to call for the end of a partnership between the AWM and global weapons giant **BAE Systems**; in 2021 we received confirmation that this partnership had **not been renewed** and BAE branding had been removed from the memorial.

Harms of Australian arms exports

In 2021, MAPW **continued to lobby** the government on arms exports to the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who lead a coalition in the war in **Yemen**. Despite repeated and credible reports of civilian harm and allegations of violations of human rights and international law in Yemen, the Australian government has **refused** to halt, pause, or review approvals of arms exports that may be used in Yemen.

Our work on the harms of the arms trade was featured in a report by **SBS Dateline** and contributed to media coverage of the issue throughout the year.

In response to the February 2021 military coup in **Myanmar**, MAPW endorsed calls for a global embargo on sales of arms and military-related equipment to the Tatmadaw.

Students at **Macquarie University** worked with MAPW to update information on the known harms of arms exports, and to articulate the public health rationale for action. This work was presented virtually at the **2021 World Peace Congress**. Thank you to Miti, Acille, Jade and Aleksandra.

ELBIT SYSTEMS

Elbit Systems is an Israeli weapons company. The Coalition for Justice and Peace in Palestine, along with Palestinian and human rights groups worldwide, have raised credible concerns about the role of Elbit in the violation of Palestinian rights. In 2021, MAPW joined others to call for greater scrutiny of Australian state and federal government relationships with Elbit Systems. Thank you to the **Australian Centre for International Justice** for leadership on the issue.

MILITARISM + HEALTH

In 2021, **Australian Catholic University** public health students joined MAPW to conduct research on the **opportunity cost to health** of Australia's over-investment in military defence.

ACU students also provided research support for MAPW's submission to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee's *Inquiry into Australia's engagement in Afghanistan* and contributed to MAPW's submission on the Militarisation of Indigenous Lands to the **United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**. Thank you to Isabella, Dylan, and Meg.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

MAPW members know that health professionals have the power and obligation to act to uphold the right to life and health, to protect human rights, and stand in solidarity with fellow health workers around the world.

DOCTORS FOR ASSANGE

MAPW called for the immediate end to the torture and medical neglect of Julian Assange, and for charges against him to be dropped. MAPW members were amongst more than 250 medical professionals from 35 countries who called on US President Biden to end the legal persecution of Assange. In August 2021, MAPW President Sue Wareham joined an international panel to reiterate a call for the release of Julian Assange from UK's Belmarsh Prison.

ACTION FOR DR SHATHA ODEH

MAPW representatives and members were amongst the signatories of an open letter to the WHO to intercede in the case of Dr Shatha Odeh, director of the Palestinian Health Work Committees (HWCs). Dr Odeh was arrested in July 2021 by Israeli forces, not long after a military raid and shutdown of the HWCs headquarters. Dr Odeh's arrest was a blow to the delivery of health care in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

WEST PAPUA

MAPW called on Foreign Minister Marise Payne to take action in recognition of the right of West Papuan people for self-determination, and to rein back Australian military support for Indonesian counterparts.

AFGHANISTAN

In September, we joined over fifty human rights organisations from around the world in a joint appeal to UN Member States to launch a robust investigative mechanism on Afghanistan in order to deliver a credible response to the escalating human rights crisis gripping the country.

PALESTINE: RIGHT TO HEALTH

In May 2021, in response to an escalation of violence with grossly disproportionate impact on Palestinian civilians, MAPW wrote to Foreign Minister Marise Payne to urge action. We provided evidence that destruction of health facilities was further compounding pre-existing health inequities suffered by Palestinians under occupation.

SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

In October, MAPW joined dozens of Australian organisations to condemn the State of Israel's designation of six Palestinian human rights organisations and unions as "terrorist" organisations. We called on the Australian Government to condemn the designations and to demand their reversal.

HOME TO BILO

MAPW President Sue Wareham spoke at the Canberra snap action calling for the release of the Murgappan family from immigration detention, telling the rally: "The forced separation of the Biloea family from the community where they belong, in order to send a message to others, is immoral."

CLIMATE, PEACE AND SECURITY

HEALTHY FUTURES

MAPW joined Healthy Futures and fellow health organisations - plus hundreds of individual health workers - to call on energy giant and Australia's biggest climate polluter, AGL, to end its harmful coal-burning and commit to a rapid transition to 100% renewable energy.



**STOP EXCLUDING MILITARY POLLUTION
FROM CLIMATE AGREEMENTS**

COP26

SIGN THE PETITION



waste kimba

In a submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, MAPW has endorsed the construction of a new Intermediate Level Solid Waste Storage Facility at Lucas Heights.

Other proposals for the storage of this waste, such as the proposed Kimba dump site in SA, have been divisive and poorly planned; the Lucas Heights proposal will have minimal community impact. However, MAPW urges a move towards more reliable, safer, cheaper and much cleaner production of isotopes by using cyclotrons. Read the full submission.

FINANCIAL REPORT