



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF WAR

I realised in doing this report just how much we've achieved over the past 12 months, and how very much needed MAPW is. We've been able to promote MAPW's messages in many different places and to many different audiences, and fill a unique niche in the struggle for a more just and peaceful world.

MAPW has grown over the past year, but we must attribute at least some of that growth to the most terrible war in the Middle East, in which the people of Gaza, and now Lebanon, pay a shocking price.

The destruction of healthcare facilities and workers has been on a scale not seen in recent history, and it is healthcare workers' voices, with MAPW being prominent among them, that have consistently condemned these attacks as war crimes.

We have:

- Spoken at rallies, written letters, urged other health professional bodies to speak out for the protection of healthcare in Gaza, and worked with many other health workers to support them in their advocacy, whether it be in relation to arms exports to Israel, the BDS movement, support for UNRWA and other aid agencies, Australia's legal and moral obligations and other aspects of Australia's role
- Written a number of letters to Foreign Minister Wong on these issues, and also written to parliamentarians who are health professionals
- Joined others in meetings with parliamentarians to urge humanitarian visas for people fleeing Gaza.

A particular concern has been the attempts to silence healthcare professionals who are speaking out, and we engaged over many months with Ahpra, the health regulator, on the matter of vexatious notifications to them of health workers. We took specific actions in support of university students expelled, or threatened with expulsion, for speaking out for the people of Gaza. We met with Australia's Human Rights Ambassador, and wrote to the Human Rights Commission.

MAPW helped produce a statement from some of Australia's leading child health experts urging action to protect the children of Gaza. There was such difficulty in getting the statement published that the process left no doubt about the strong censorship in our media around even advocating for the welfare of children. That has been perhaps the most chilling of all the lessons of the past year for me. I particularly want to acknowledge and pay deep respects to one of our new MAPW members, Dr Bushra Othman, who worked in Gaza earlier this year and was one of the authors of the statement on protecting the children of Gaza.

This war continues, as we are all too painfully aware, and our efforts continue.

It remains a great privilege to work with MAPW in the role of president. Enormous thanks to our staff, National Council, and Executive team, and to all our members without whom MAPW would not exist. We're indebted to you all for standing up for peace.

Dr Sue Wareham, President

**Learn more about MAPW's work in 2024
on our website: mapw.org.au**



ABOUT MAPW

MAPW works to prevent the harms of war and militarism, and to promote the prevention of war-related mortality and morbidity. Our big vision is: a peaceful world with health for all.

MAPW (Australia) was formed in 1981, and has been a powerful voice for peace for more than forty years.

MAPW founded the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) in 2007; in 2017 ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

MAPW is the Australian affiliate of 1985 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

IPPNW is a non-partisan federation of national medical groups in over 60 countries, representing tens of thousands of doctors, medical students, and other health workers. IPPNW works for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and the prevention of the harms caused by armed conflict.

We are members of the international Stop Killer Robots Campaign, the Cluster Munitions Coalition, and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

MAPW is an Incorporated Association registered in Victoria, and a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission. MAPW is governed by a volunteer National Council, elected by members, which meets monthly to set and review strategies and policies. Branch convenors also sit on the National Council.

2024 National Council

President Dr Sue Wareham OAM

Vice President Dr Amanda Ruler

Vice President Dr Margie Beavis OAM

Treasurer Dr Jenny Grounds

Secretary Dr Michael Keem

HSAPW Representative Blessy Fernandez

International Councillor Assoc Prof Tilman Ruff AO

Councillors Prof Rob Moodie AM, Dr Anne Noonan, Lynne Saville, Dr Nick Wickham, Dr Sally Attril, Leigh Dix, Prof Peter Underwood, Dr Sue Baglow

Executive Officer Elise West

Accounts Officer Mensur Aletic



Health and peace are interdependent. Peace has long been recognised as a precondition for a healthy society. But health can also be a bridge to peace.

World Health Organization Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

This year, there were more active conflicts than at any time since 1946, with civilians overwhelmingly bearing the burden of war-related morbidity and mortality.

Systematic reviews published in 2024 continue to demonstrate that populations in conflict situations have a significantly increased incidence of both communicable and non-communicable disease, highlighting the increasing need for all health workers to promote peace and prevent war.

Conflict situations increase disease incidence because of the destruction of vital health, water, and sanitation infrastructures; loss of health and medical workforce; large-scale, forced population movements; reduced capacity for disease surveillance and response; interruptions to food, health, and medical supply chains; increased co-morbidity through injury and trauma, and the breakdown of social structures that play a role in maintaining human health and wellbeing.

In 2023-24, increasing rates of HIV and Hepatitis B virus were recorded in countries experiencing conflict such as Libya and Ukraine. Population displacement, shortages of clean water, the destruction of sanitation facilities, and lack of electricity caused by conflicts in Yemen, Palestine, and Liberia were significant drivers of cholera outbreaks in those countries.

Increased incidence of tuberculosis was reported in conflict affected areas of Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Nigeria. Ukraine and Russia also reported the spread of tuberculosis through population displacement caused by war. And after being almost totally eradicated in the region, poliovirus was detected in Gaza in 2024.

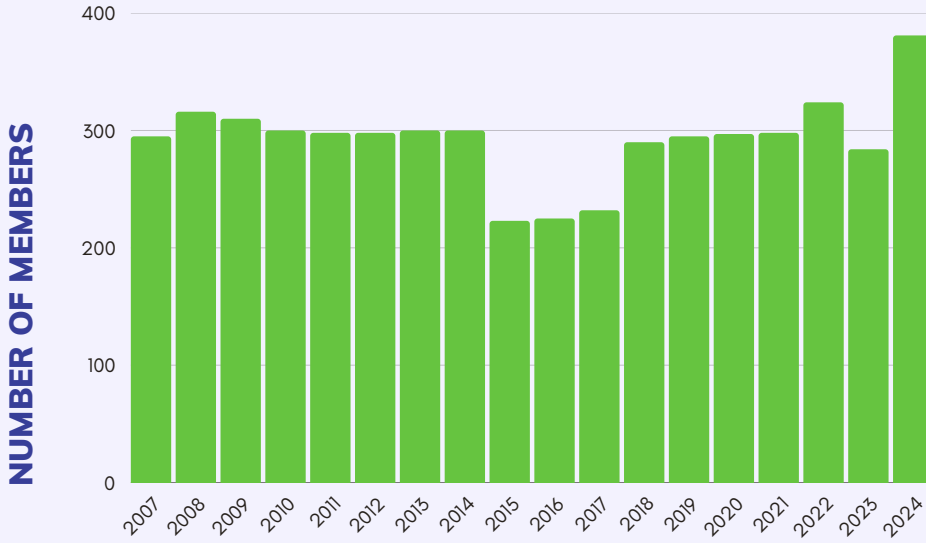
Systematic reviews have also demonstrated ongoing conflict-to-disease pathways for malaria, leishmaniasis, measles, dengue, diphtheria and acute bacterial meningitis in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sudan, Nigeria and Bangladesh.

The ability of health systems to detect and treat war-related disease has been further complicated in 2024 by the increasing incidence of attacks on humanitarian and healthcare staff and infrastructure. The World Health Organisation has recorded 1367 attacks on health in fourteen countries and territories this year - the deadliest year on record.

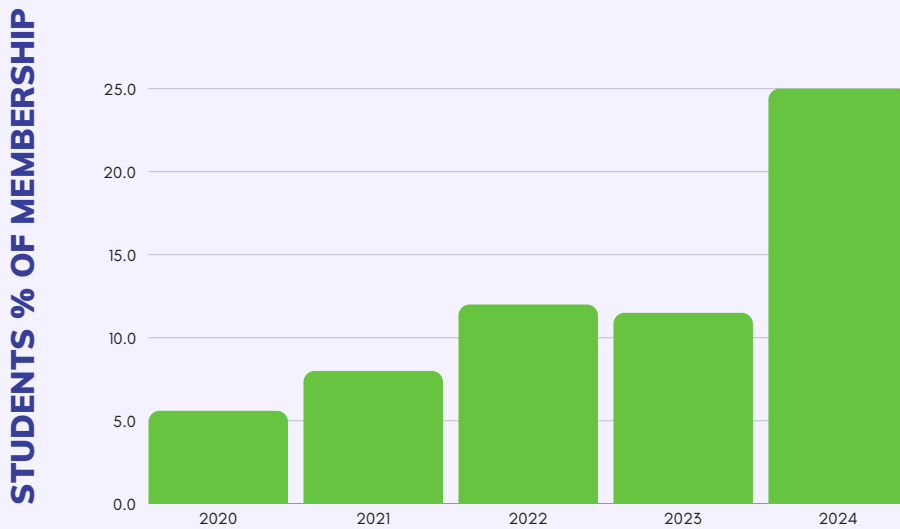
Nuclear weapons continue to pose an existential threat to human and planetary health, through their potential to inflict unprecedented levels of mortality and morbidity, destruction of vital infrastructure, nuclear winter causing global famine, and very long-term elevated rates of numerous cancers.

And, globally, the basic human right to the highest possible standard of health continues to be undermined by over-investment in militarised approaches to human security. Total global military expenditure reached US \$2443 billion in 2023, and continued to surge in 2024. Meanwhile, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates 305 million people around the world are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

MEMBERSHIP



Membership of MAPW increased in 2024, reflecting health workers' growing concern about conflicts around the world.



The overall percentage of student members has grown fourfold since 2020.

THANK YOU

MAPW is proud to host university student placements and project groups throughout the year. In 2024 we thank Kieran and Max from the Australian Catholic University School of Public Health, and Aaron, Millicent, Nikesh, Maximilian, Lara, Elise, Zahra and Madeline from Macquarie University PACE program. Thank you to Dr Stephen Fisher and Dr Vince Scappatura.

MAPW is grateful for pro bono accounting services from DFK Nugents. We also thank Leila Mutapcic for her oversight of MAPW finances. Thank you to Fernando Gonçalves and Adam Dempsey for permission to use their photographs throughout the year.

MEDIA

Between January and December 2024, MAPW appeared in the media more than once per week on average.

MAPW generated content for, and coverage in, the following outlets:

2XX Radio	Canberra Times	Raising Peace
3CR Radio	Channel 7	RTR FM
ABC News	Croakey	Sky News
ABC Radio National	Fremantle Herald	Super Review
Adelaide Chronicles	Global Times	The Age
AEU Victoria News	Green Left Weekly	The Citizen
ANMF Journal	Hobart Mercury	The Educator
Australian Peace and Security Forum	Hope FM	The Guardian
ARENA Magazine	InDaily	Three D Radio
Augusta Margaret River Mail	Investor Daily	
Australia Institute	Mining.com.au	
Australian Financial Review	Money Mag	
Braidwood Bugle	Pearls and Irritations	

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions to government inquiries and reviews is an important way of influencing policy. In 2024, MAPW submitted evidence to the following inquiries:

House Select Committee on Nuclear Energy
Inquiry into Nuclear Power Generation in Australia
Australia's sanctions regimes
AUKUS agreement for Cooperation Related to Naval Nuclear Propulsion
Wrongful detention of Australian citizens overseas
Criminal Code Amendment (Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes) Bill 2024
Submarine Rotational Force—West, Priority Works, HMAS Stirling
Australia's response to the priorities of Pacific Island countries and the Pacific Region
Public sector whistleblowing stage 2 reforms
Access to Australian Parliament House by lobbyists
Response to draft report, Philanthropy
Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Bill 2023



There is nothing in recent memory that matches the scale of the atrocities inflicted on the civilians of Gaza.

Since October 2023, people in Gaza have experienced repeated mass displacement, destruction of health and sanitation infrastructure, shortages of food and medical supplies due to blockades, and attacks on housing and civilian infrastructure. Health and humanitarian workers and facilities have come under repeated attack. The International Court of Justice has concluded that it is plausible that Israel's actions in Gaza Strip could amount to genocide.



Australian doctors & social workers call for humanitarian visas for people fleeing Palestine

Wednesday 3 July, 2024



There are unprecedented levels of mortality, morbidity and disability in Gaza. The death toll, in December 2024, was estimated to be at least 44 000 with over 105 000 reported injuries. Studies show widespread and uncontrolled outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases, respiratory infections, scabies and lice, chickenpox, measles, meningitis, acute viral hepatitis, and jaundice. Poliovirus and cholera have been detected. The UN reported that Gaza, in December 2024, has the most child amputees per capita on earth.



MAPW has long been an advocate for the people of Palestine. Over 2024, we were highly focussed on advocacy and action to uphold the rule of law in Gaza, and to protect the universal right to seek and receive health care in times of war. We also worked to protect health workers' rights and obligations to speak up in the face of abuses of human rights, and to build solidarity with our colleagues in Palestine and Israel.

MAPW successfully advocated to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) to clarify guidelines around health worker advocacy. We supported medical and other students facing disciplinary action for their participation in activism. We collaborated with Physicians for Human Rights Israel to advance the issue of medical evacuations from Gaza with Australian parliamentarians.

MAPW met with the Ambassador for Human Rights and DFAT officials. We wrote to the Foreign Minister on the issue of funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency, sanctions on Israel, arms exports, resolutions in the United Nations and more.

We wrote and published widely on the health dimensions of war and genocide, and collaborated with groups around Australia to stand up for international law, human rights and dignity, and the inalienable, universal right to health.



AUKUS

AUKUS poses threats to health at local, national, regional and global levels. A serious examination of those threats should form an important part of preventive healthcare.

A key part of the AUKUS deal is for Australia to acquire submarines powered by nuclear reactors, as well as greater access for US and UK nuclear submarines to Australian ports.

For local communities, there are many questions about the health implications of having a nuclear reactor in port. Similarly, there are many questions about how Australia will manage the high level nuclear waste (HLW) that the submarines will produce. It will need to be contained to minimise any risk to health and the environment for over 10,000 years – clearly a toxic problem for every future generation.

There is also a broader risk to human health from growing militarism and the increasing threat of war in our region.

Throughout 2024, MAPW has worked to highlight AUKUS' risks to health, and to support local communities to hold authorities to account.

We have published information briefs and articles, highlighted the misrepresentation of nuclear medicine, given presentations and testimony, conducted research, and collaborated with groups and communities around Australia.

In April 2024, MAPW WA organised a series of inspiring events in Perth and Margaret River. They focussed on a number of aspects of war and peace, with AUKUS being a key theme. There was valuable collaboration with other local groups including Stop AUKUS WA.

Throughout 2024, MAPW South Australia has also been extremely active, representing local concerns about the health risks of nuclear reactors and nuclear waste in both high-level and public forums.



NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The abolition of nuclear weapons is a core MAPW mission.

Nuclear weapons pose an existential risk to people and the planet, and are harmful at every stage of their development, testing, and use. Nuclear weapons are used by possessing states to threaten and coerce, and to distort international relations. In 2024, we continued to work to secure the Australian Government's accession to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons through advocacy to policy makers, media and presentations, support of resolutions at the United Nations, and events marking Hiroshima and Nagasaki anniversaries.

We were active members of our global federation, IPPNW, and, in December, hosted our colleagues from Japan on a study tour. .



QUIT NUKES

In 2024, our Quit Nukes project published updated research on Australian superannuation funds and nuclear weapons.

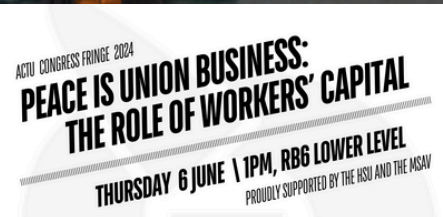
The report, 'Risky Business: An Update on Super Funds and Nuclear Weapons' found that Australians continue to invest in the production of nuclear weapons through their superannuation. In 2023, major superannuation funds invested at least \$3.4 billion in companies that produce the worst weapons of mass destruction.

The report further confirmed previous findings that the exclusion of nuclear weapons has no material impact on super funds' returns to members.

Produced in association with the Australia Institute, the report garnered mainstream media attention and prompted major super funds to take or clarify actions on investments in nuclear weapons.

Across 2024, the Quit Nukes team also participated in the international Principles of Responsible Investment conference in Canada, the ACTU Congress Fringe, and Castlemaine Free University. Quit Nukes met with super fund advisors, executives and board members, industry analysts and experts, and continued to engage with industry bodies in Australia and around the world.

Learn more about this work at quitnukes.org



VALE DR HARRY COHEN

In March 2024, MAPW mourned the death of Dr Harry Cohen - founding coordinator of the WA MAPW branch, former President and Vice President of MAPW Australia, and an active member of IPPNW. Harry made extraordinary contributions to the care of women and children in Australia, and to public and planetary health. In 1995, Harry was made a Member of the Order of Australia "for service to medicine, particularly in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology and to international relations".

Generous friend, inspiring mentor and teacher to many, Harry's compassionate heart embraced the whole world.

Vale Harry.





Melbourne, Action for Gaza



Sydney, March for Palestine



AUKUS Forum, Fremantle WA



VP Dr. Amanda Ruler receives a WILPF Peace Woman award

ROBERT SCHMIDLI

4PM | 2 NOVEMBER 2024
WESLEY MUSIC CENTRE | FORREST ACT

BEETHOVEN | CHOPIN | SCHUBERT

PIANO RECITAL

ALL FUNDS RAISED SUPPORT WORK FOR PEACE AND THE PREVENTION OF WAR

TIX \$60 INC. REFRESHMENTS
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
DONATIONS WELCOME

RSPV BY 31 OCT: MAUREEN CUMMUSKEY
cummuskeymaureen@gmail.com
Inquiries: Rosie Yuille 0435 004 648.

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF WAR MAPW.ORG.AU

HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI

6.8.24 | 8AM | PEACE PARK, TARNDANYA ADELAIDE

6.8.24 | 5PM | CNR HAY + WILLIAM, BOORLOO PERTH

9.8.24 | 5PM | ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, NAARM MELBOURNE

10.8.24 | 11 AM | PARLIAMENT HOUSE LAWS, NIPALUNA HOBART



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE BLUE PACIFIC?

Ahead of the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, join a conversation with journalist and researcher Nic MacIellen on opportunities and obstacles on the path to a resilient Blue Pacific.

13/08/24 | 6:30PM EASTERN TIME | ZOOM
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF WAR MAPW.ORG.AU



HEALTHCARE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTION OF WAR

HSAPW is MAPW's new, national, student-led initiative.

HSAPW has come together to advance the work of MAPW, develop advocacy skills, and foster the next generation of activists for peace and health. The executive team is made up of students from around Australia. In just its first year, HSAPW has run an online event featuring health professionals returned from Gaza, secured a grant to develop a training module, participated in the Bill Williams debate, collaborated on advocacy efforts to protect health professional's rights and obligations to speak up, and run a weekend workshop for visiting Japanese students. HSAPW member Shayan also participated in the ICAN Academy, visiting Hiroshima with students from around the world.

MILITARISM AND CLIMATE

In 2024, MAPW continued to work to show the causal links between increasing militarism and environmental crisis.

After calling for the Department of Defence to provide transparency around emissions from Australia's military for several years, in 2024 we welcomed the Defence Department's release of information and the publication of Defence's *Net Zero* and *Future Energy* strategies. These strategies, however, fall short of meaningful action to address the environmental effects of increasing militarism.

In 2024, the MAPW Peace Fund supported work to develop resources for environment groups, showing the links between climate and peace, and giving practical tips on incorporating a peace frame into climate campaigns.



IS IT ETHICAL FOR UNIVERSITIES TO INVEST IN, OR WORK WITH, COMPANIES THAT MANUFACTURE WEAPONS?



Inaugural Dr Bill Williams Memorial Debate | 11.10.24



The question 'Is it ethical for universities to invest in, or work with, companies that manufacture weapons?' is one that is directly relevant to global health and the role of our universities in promoting it.

This issue has come to the fore over the past year as many university students and staff alike have been very disturbed by universities' investments in and/or academic collaboration with the world's biggest weapons companies – companies that have facilitated the near total destruction of healthcare, education facilities and other civilian infrastructure in Gaza.



On 11 October, a panel discussion on the question was held at the University of Melbourne, in honour of peace activist and former president of the Medical Association for Prevention of War, the late Dr Bill Williams (1958-2016). Speakers were Dr Hadrien Moffroid, a founding member of the Healthcare Students Association for the Prevention of War; Hadil Albarqi, a Palestinian from Gaza and University of Melbourne graduate; Dr Elizabeth Strakosch from the Jewish Council of Australia, and Associate Professor Tilman Ruff AO from the Medical Association for Prevention of War. The moderator was Dr Tania Miletic from the Initiative for Peacebuilding at the University of Melbourne.

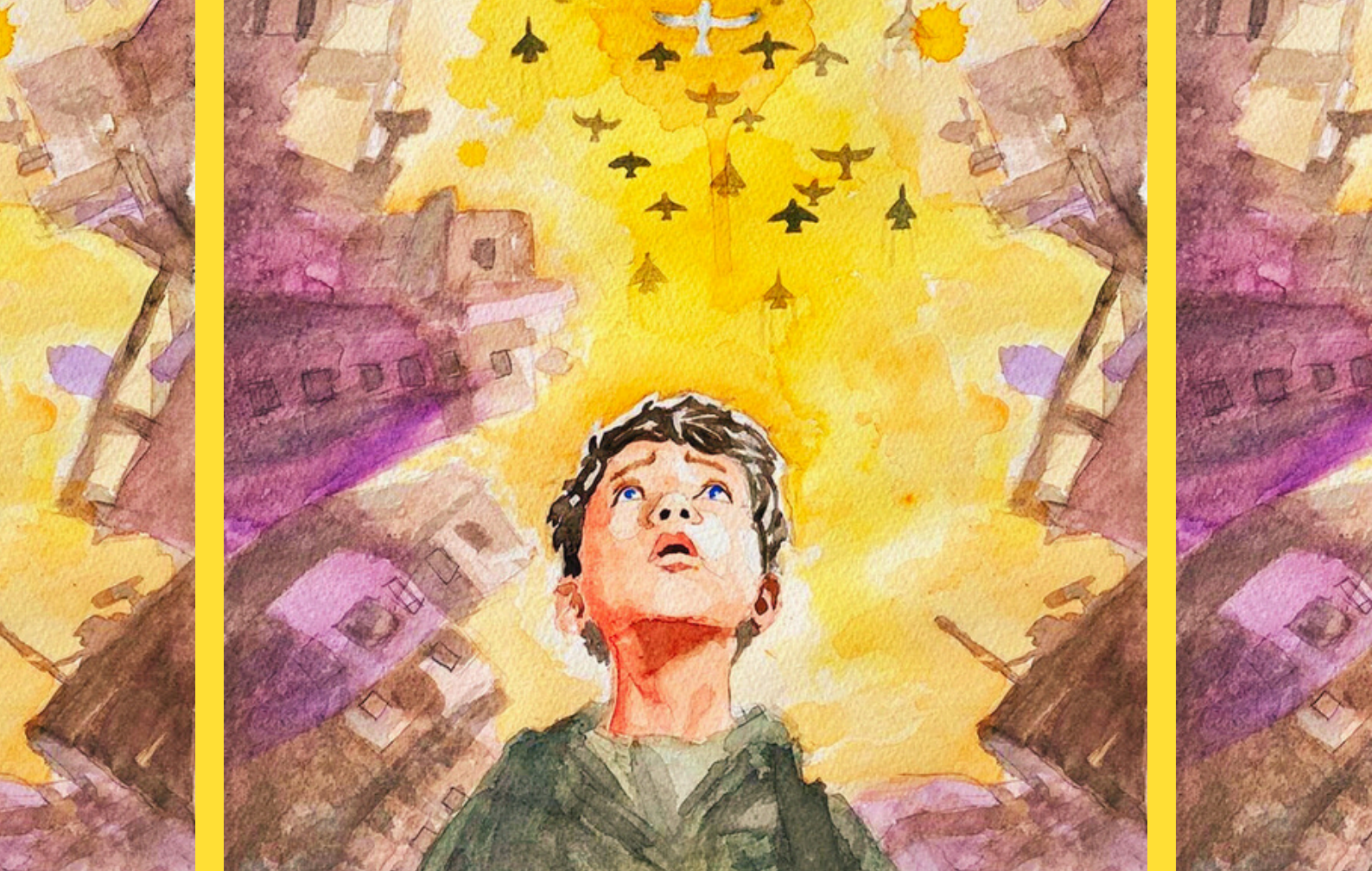


The event was supported by staff and students from the University medical and public health schools. Thank you to Cameron McCormack, Deena El-Shabasei, Tania King, Guy Gillor, Alex Sully, Alex Campbell, Eva Alisic, and Alison Gibberd. We are especially grateful to Dr Michael Williams for making the event possible.

Unfortunately, the university's leadership was unavailable to take part and declined to send a proxy speaker or a statement to the event. Three key themes emerged during the discussion: ethical contradictions and moral responsibilities, neoliberalism and universities, and geopolitics and legal considerations.

Universities are at a crossroads, faced with choosing between working with companies whose products cause direct and severe harm to health, and universities' ethical obligation to promote peace and human welfare.

This text has been adapted from an article written by Hadrien Moffroid and published by Croakey Health Media.



TIME TO TALK PEACE

The Australian War Memorial and Children

In 2024, MAPW published a report on the Australian War Memorial's programming and exhibitions for children. What the Memorial chooses to portray, and how it does so, helps shape what young Australians understand about our wars and their costs.

Written by child health experts and others, the report criticises the Memorial's drift away from its founding purpose towards honouring the very act of fighting in wars, and proposes a set of principles to guide and improve children's programming.

The principles emphasise the need to encourage critical reflection, honest understanding of how, why and for whose benefit wars are fought, and hope for a more peaceful future for all. The principles also recommend proper representation of British colonial wars against First Nations people, and sensitive recognition of many children's own experiences of war.

The principles in the report have been endorsed by Save the Children Australia, the Academy of Child and Adolescent Health and the Australian Psychological Society. The foreword was written by acclaimed author for young people and 2014 Australian Children's Laureate, Jackie French AM.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income and Expenditure Statement

Medical Association for Prevention of War - Australia Inc.

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Membership Fees	53,471	43,211
Donations Received	37,649	27,011
Total Income	91,119	70,222
Other Income		
Fundraising Income	9,880	14,454
Reimbursements (ICAN & PF)	9,210	15,562
Interest Income	8,369	1,152
Other Revenue	285	-
Total Other Income	27,744	31,168
Total Income	118,863	101,390
Expenditure		
Affiliate Fees	272	6,634
Annual Leave	102	(1,231)
Bank Fees	1,249	892
Computer Expenses	7,805	5,095
Depreciation	37	64
Insurance	3,400	3,077
Long Service Leave	5,771	-
Other Expenses	5,463	572
Postage	446	610
Printing & Stationery	-	1,109
Project Costs	4,606	9,047
Rent	12,681	13,627
Repairs and Maintenance	800	1,200
Telephone & Internet	1,249	1,776
Travel	-	3,741
Wages and Salaries	62,593	57,490
Superannuation	6,702	6,037
Work Cover	782	176
Staff Cost - Other	412	-
Total Expenditure	114,369	109,915
Surplus/(Loss) for the year	4,494	(8,525)

Assets and Liabilities Statement

Medical Association for Prevention of War - Australia Inc.
As at 30 June 2024

	NOTES	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	301,446	272,824
Trade and Other Receivables	3	1,757	1,134
Total Current Assets		303,203	273,958
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and Equipment and Vehicles	4	77	114
Total Non-Current Assets		77	114
Total Assets		303,280	274,072
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	5	25,847	8,594
Employee Entitlements	6	8,800	1,339
Total Current Liabilities		34,648	9,933
Total Liabilities		34,648	9,933
Net Assets		268,633	264,139
Members' Funds			
Current Year Earnings		4,494	(8,525)
Retained Earnings		264,139	272,664
Total Members' Funds		268,633	264,139