

Campaigning in Australia around Military spending.

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Independent & Peaceful Australia Network



*Just Peace –
Established 2002 in response to
the “war on terror”*



*Independent & Peaceful Australia Network–
Established 2011
in response to
US troops in N Aust
& US Bases in Aust.*



Brief Background of Australian Peace Movement

... Mass movements around

... Conscription



... Nuclear weapons



... War



*Some issues to consider in
developing our Military Spending Campaign
.. lessons from Australian Experience..*

- *Connecting with social movements*
- *Analysing aspects of military spending*
- *Analysing the costs of military spending*
- *What are our aims*
- *Developing strategy and tactics*

Social movements:

***Mass movements** – churches, trade unions*

- ***Anti-war** – WILPF, MAPW,...*
- ***Social services** – ACOSS, refugee support, ...*
- ***Broader social change** – Left, climate change, environmental movement, ...*

We need to..

Connect with the focus of these groups,

develop common goals

work alongside

Analysing military spending

- *Proportion of total government spending*
- *What parts devoted to defensive spending*

eg. defend Australian sovereignty.

offensive war-fighting

eg. joining US wars in Middle East

Aust- \$30b total,

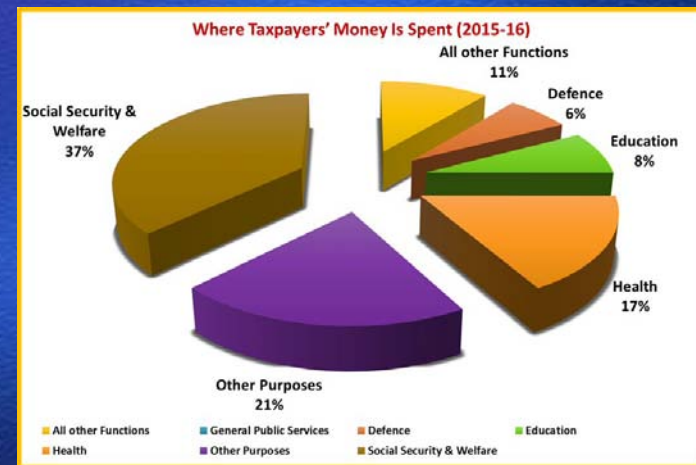
- \$17b for 100 F35s,

- \$50b attack submarines

- *Arms manufacturers in schools*
 - \$5m Boeing to Toowong High School*
- *Money spent on promotion of military*
 - \$300m to “commemorate” the WWI*

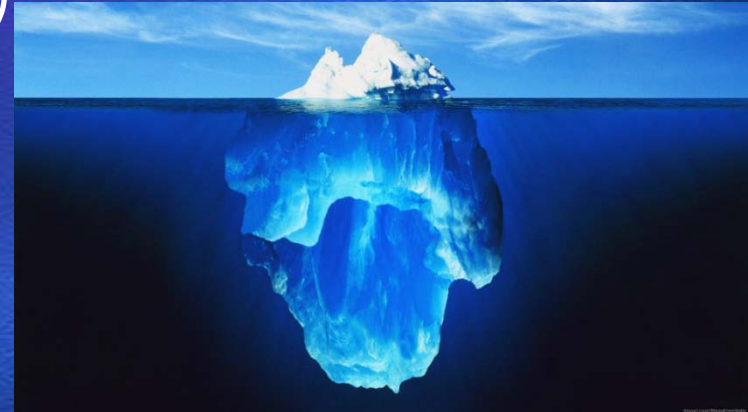
Costs of military spending

- **Lost social services**
 - scarce government resources
- **Cost to working people**
 - development of sustainable industries
- **Impact on “psyche” of the people**
 - war and militarist culture



Our aims and strategies

- ***Ultimate aim of “no military” , c.f.***
c.f. the intermediate aims of
 - ***Only defensive expenditure***
 - ***Armed neutrality posture***
- ***Need to take account of the people’s attitudes***
eg. Widespread support for arms and airforce shows
- ***Develop Campaigns that are both***
 - ***Broad (wide mass engagement)***
 - ***Deep (substantial issues addressed)***
- ***Focus should be on***
grass roots campaigning,
rather than just on rallies
- ***Campaigns - Icebergs of change,***
Not ships of change



Current planned campaign

- *Aim: reduce government spending on expensive F35 combat aircraft*
- *Connect with*
 - *social movement already involved in both peace and health issues – MAPW*
 - *Social movements active around health – Nurses Union, Doctors Association*
 - *Broader social movements interested in this – ACOSS, Care organisations*
- *Letter campaign from people to their doctor,*
 - *Pointing out lack of adequate health spending*
 - *Pointing out wasteful \$ on attack aircraft and submarines*
 - *“only remote prospect of attack on Australia” (Defence White paper)*

it will be a great day
when
our schools
get all the money
they need
and the air force
has to hold
a cake stall
to buy a
bomber

