

Global Policy

Australia has much to offer to the world.

For all the hardships of our early years and the conflicts that marked our early history, Australians rose to the occasion and formed a nation. We established an open, democratic and inclusive society in which all people are equal before the law.

Australia did not become this way by accident. We owe much of the stability and security we experience today to the systems of governance and law we inherited from the British, and the Christian heritage that was our moral compass.

Strong public institutions, a free press and the absence of corruption has provided Australians with a much greater sense of confidence and security in their lives than most others in the world experience.

- Family First believes that Australia, by virtue of its political stability, resources and influence is uniquely placed to contribute to peace and stability and to foster the development of many of the world's poorest nations.
- Family First supports the policy of assisting the Asia Pacific rim in quelling civil strife and rendering humanitarian assistance.
- Family First believes that Australia, as the largest economy in the region with a size greater than that of Indonesia, Thailand, Papua New Guinea and Malaysia combined, is ideally placed to focus on the needs of the poorer nations in our region.

Fighting Terrorism

Terrorism is a direct threat to free society and must be resisted. While the relative size of the Australian Defence Force limits our capacity to make deployments on the scale our major allies have made in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is important that Australia makes commitments in these areas to the extent that our capacity allows.

- Family First supports the deployment of Australian troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Regional Security

Approximately half the 4,000 Australian troops currently deployed overseas are serving in our own region.

- Family First supports Australia's involvement in peacemaking and peacekeeping activities in our region believing they are an important aspect of our involvement with emerging democracies helping them come to terms with the challenges of self government.
- Family First believes that the foundation of any nation rests on its capacity to effectively self-govern. If civil order cannot be guaranteed there can be no progress in commerce, infrastructure, health or education. If corruption flourishes, there is no hope of significant economic development and citizens will continue to live in poverty.

Community Aid Abroad

Many Australians participate in Community Aid Abroad teams by using their skills, experience and knowledge in assignments with Australian Volunteers and other development non-government organisations (NGO's). Australians are good at building schools, clinics, farming and water initiatives.

- Family First believes support for teams of young Australians endeavouring to pursue 'adventure with purpose' should be encouraged.

Foreign Aid

Tens of thousands die each day from poverty related illness and despite summits, conferences, strategies and the commitment of vast sums of aid money little has changed for the world's most impoverished people. And while aid and relief payments from donor countries are, and will remain, important mechanisms for funding health, education, housing and development initiatives they will not, by themselves, lead to the fundamental social and economic changes necessary to lift people out of poverty.

- Family First believes that the primary focus for Australia must be on the sustainable relief of poverty best achieved through trade and stable institutions.

- Family First believes Australia should set a target of committing 1% of its GDP to foreign aid. This is more than double our current level of spending on foreign aid.