
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2008 9:13
To: White Paper
Subject: WWW Submission: 12. Funding for Defence [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission: Lasting peace will not be achieved in our region by increasing our military hardware. This will only promote a lack of trust and military competitiveness amongst other nations.

1. The military budget should be decreased in buying of weapons, training in killing and covert operations.
2. Money must be spent on diplomacy, peace building, reconciliation, reparations and conflict resolution.
3. The budget must be increased in overseas aid, poverty reduction (including the dropping of international debt for the poorest nations) universal health care, providing free treatment for sufferers of HIV in developing nations.
4. Money must be given for the education and training of people in active nonviolence. There are many groups in Australia ready to do this but no funding from any source. These groups are raising their own funds to enable this.
5. Peace and nonviolence programmes must be funded in our schools from prep to 12.
6. Universities must be better funded to offer courses on Peace studies which include conflict and resolution studies.
7. A plan must be put into place for helping people who will become climate refugees. These people have been begging for our help and they are our pacific neighbours.
8. A public apology must be made for the treatment of refugee and asylum seekers so badly treated by the previous governments in Australia.
9. More money must be made available for refugees to find their place of belonging in Australia i.e mental health services, access to language classes, education programmes and work opportunities.
10. Interactions amongst politicians must be improved - your examples of name calling, bullying, undermining all add to intolerance and violence in our society.
11. Stop the mining and supply of uranium and call for the destruction of all nuclear weapons.

There are many examples through out our world and our past century where active nonviolence has brought down dictators, walls and regimes as well as ousting an occupying foreign force and government. It does work although. In war someone always loses but the world loses most. Millions of people suffering can be relieved by the channeling money away from the war machine. The war machine is never satisfied.

I urge the Australian government to become a world leader and a visionary in engaging in the nonviolent transformation of the world.

This will not be a quick fix. It will take courage to be different. But the whole world continues to stand on the brink of annihilation unless we dream of a different way.

To quote from the writing of one of my favourite workers for peace jesuit priest John Dear "If we want to discover the blessings of peace, we have to renounce war and dedicate our selves to a new world with out war. Every human being has to join this global campaign for peace if we are to lead ourselves away from the precipice of global catastrophe. We need to rediscover our shared humanity and reclaim the higher principles of love, justice, compassion and equality. We need to demand food, clothing, housing, education, health care and dignity for every child on the planet. We need to give our lives to the future of peace."

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

I agree to my submission being quoted in the Community Consultation Report