

MAKE PEACE A PRIORITY

125th Anniversary of Australian Parliament

Saturday, 9 May 2026

Historical Significance

9 May 1901: Australia's first federal parliament met in Melbourne

9 May 1927: "New" parliament house opened in Canberra

9 May 1988: Permanent Parliament House opened on Capital Hill

This campaign aims to leverage the 125th anniversary of the opening of Australia's federal parliament to advance arguments for genuine Australian independence and peaceful foreign policy.

Campaign stages:

- 1 **Movement Building** - Build coalition of unions, peace groups, faith communities, environmental organisations
- 2 **Political Engagement** - Brief ministers and MPs leading to ALP National Conference
- 3 **Public Education** - Shift public understanding on independence and peace issues
- 4 **Policy Pressure** - Compel government response on military commitments and democratic accountability

2026 Timeline

- **January** Planning, Resource Development & MP Briefings
- **March** High-Level Political Delegation
- **May 9** National Anniversary Events
- **July 23-25** ALP National Conference.

The campaign culminates at the ALP National Conference in Adelaide, where the party's National Platform for the next three years will be debated and agreed, providing a strategic opportunity to influence Labor Party policy on peace and independence issues.

Core Messages

- **"True Independence Starts Now"**

End foreign military bases and assert genuine sovereignty

- **"Peace is Our Priority"**

Redirect \$370B from AUKUS to genuine self-defence and reallocation to healthcare, education & climate action

- **"Treaty for True Independence"**

Recognise Indigenous sovereignty as foundation of genuine independence

Initial (Achievable) Proposals

- **Expand Minister for International Development Role to include Peacebuilding**

Integrate peacebuilding responsibilities within existing ministerial portfolio

- **Consolidate All Areas Working on Peace**

Ensure peace is given appropriate focus across government departments and agencies

- **Increase Resourcing for Conflict Prevention**

Provide additional funding for research bodies, increase resources for Australia's role on the Peacebuilding Commission, and expand resources for diplomacy to pursue a peace agenda in the Indo-Pacific

ITS TIME - JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Help secure stakeholder commitment for Australia's largest coordinated peace campaign. Together we can build the political pressure needed to make peace our priority and achieve genuine independence.

Get Involved: Contact your local IPAN representative or call:

Jonathan Pilbrow 0403 611 815 or David Higginbottom 0429 471 949

Web: ipan.org.au | **Email:** info@mpap.au