

# ***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**

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