

Australian Facts and Figures

Australia is among the top military spenders per capita. This is not something to boast about! There are alternatives – for example, well resourced public schools with better facilities and smaller classes to educate the citizens of the future; more beds in our public hospitals with more nurses with better working conditions, a sustainable environment, and much more. All this would be possible if Labor and Liberal Governments would listen to the people and cut military spending.

General Facts

- We spend \$32 billion a year on the military.
- That is \$87 million a day.
- That makes us the 14th biggest spender on the military in the world.
- We are 6th largest per capita spender on the military in the world.
- Australian military expenditure equals and sometimes surpasses what we spend federally on education.
- Australian military expenditure is 9 to 10 per cent of Federal Government outlays.
- Australian military expenditure is guaranteed to rise by 4 to 5 per cent each year for 20 years.

Specific Facts

- Australia has spent \$10 billion on the war in Afghanistan - \$1 billion a year plus an additional \$1.6 billion for extra armour.
- Australia is buying 3 Aegis air warfare warships at over \$2 billion each.
- Australia has recently acquired a fleet of 24 Super Hornet warplanes for \$6.6 billion.
- Australia is purchasing 100 Joint Strike Fighters at a cost of over \$16 billion. This aircraft involves controversial, highly complex technology and is still being developed. In late 2009, when the Government ordered its first installment (14 jets totaling \$3.2 billion), less than 3 per cent of flight testing had been undertaken.
- Australia cannot staff its existing 6 Collins Class submarines but the 2009 Defence White Paper pushed for 12 new submarines (estimated to cost \$30 to \$40 billion).
- Australia plans to be the first country in the South East Asian region to acquire cruise missiles (said to be more than \$0.5 million each). Not only will this appear threatening to our neighbours but it will put us in breach of a nuclear non-proliferation measure to which we subscribe, the 1987 Missile Technology Control Regime.

The Queensland Floods

The cost of Queensland's reconstruction after cyclone Yasi and the devastating floods is put at \$5 billion. To pay for this, the Federal Government is cutting environmental programs, education programs and housing programs. It did not consider cutting the military budget. Every two years a joint Australian-American military exercise called Talisman Sabre takes place at Shoalwater Bay in central Queensland. It costs about \$100 million. Talisman Sabre 2011 is planned for July this year, despite pleas from many people for it to be cancelled to protect flood affected land and to save money which could help rebuild the state.

Australian Comparisons

Building the Educational Revolution; \$16.1 billion

½ of 1 year's military spending

The Government's 2 year economic stimulus plan - \$42 billion

1 year and 3 months military spending

Move Royal Adelaide Hospital to a new site - \$1.7 billion

3 weeks military spending

Refurbish Royal Hobart Hospital - \$1 billion	2 weeks military spending
Government funding of large, grid-connected solar projects (Solar Flagships Program) – \$1.5 billion	3 weeks of military spending
Refurbish Royal North Shore Hospital (Sydney) - \$1 billion	2 weeks military spending
Rebuild Wagga Wagga Base Hospital – \$290 million	3 days military spending
\$100 mill for Tamworth’s hospital Just over a day’s military spending	Just over a day’s military spending
Acute care beds for Dubbo and Orange Base Hospital - \$5 million	1 and half hours military spending
EcoTransit's light rail plan for inner west Sydney – \$414 million	4 days of military spending
Australian overseas aid -- \$4.3 billion	1½ months military spending
Queensland reconstruction after the cyclone and floods --- \$5 billion	2 months military spending

Global Fact Sheet

Global military spending levels have climbed back to the heights they reached during the Cold War. After dropping substantially during the early 1990s, total world military spending in 2009 had reached \$1.53 trillion (SIPRI, 2010).

This colossal sum of money would be sufficient to achieve the Millennium Development Goals five times over. It could be used to save lives, develop poor communities, protect the environment, to promote renewable energy sources and much more.

The government of the United States spends approximately \$1 million every minute on military and war related costs.

- During the last year, the world spent **1,531 USD billion on the military**
- Reducing child mortality and improving maternal health would cost **USD 10 billion /year**
- Ensuring environmental sustainability would cost **USD 155.6 billion/year**
- Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger would cost **USD 102 billion/year**
- Reducing child mortality and improve maternal health would cost **USD 10 billion /year**

The amount spent on French military equipment in one year would cover interventions directly aimed at achieving gender equality in low income countries for a whole year.

The amount the USA spends on military research and development in one year would be enough to cover interventions directly aimed at achieving gender equality in low income countries for five years.

Many more jobs

In the US, it has been found that each \$1 billion of military expenditure created 8900 jobs, compared to 12,200 jobs for spending on clean energy, 14,000 jobs for health spending and 20,800 for education.

Almost 1 billion people are illiterate.

- In the developing world, one third of children do not complete four years of school.

- Half of the children in South Asia are undernourished.
- Half of the world's population lack access to adequate sanitation.
- 1.7 billion people don't have safe water.

Comparisons between countries' GDP for health, education and the military.

Country	Defense	Education	Health	Country	Defense	Education	Health
Algeria	17	24	4	Italy	4	8	11
Australia	6	6	14	Japan	4	6	2
Brazil	3	6	6	Myanmar	29	8	3
Canada	6	2	1	Pakistan	18	1	1
China	12	2	0	Papua N Guinea	4	22	7
Congo , DRC	18	0	0	Philippines	5	19	2
France	6	7	16	Russia	12	3	1
Germany	5	0	19	Somalia	38	2	1
Greece	8	11	7	Sri Lanka	18	10	6
India	15	2	2	Sudan	28	8	1
Indonesia	3	4	1	Tunisia	5	20	6
Ireland	3	14	6	UK	7	4	15
Israel	20	15	13	Venezuela	6	21	6

IMF data as an average from 1992 until 2004. <http://www.anti-bases.org/>

Source unknown – received via email – 17 April 2011