

So what does MAPW actually do?

This is just some of what we've achieved during 2017 alone,
thanks to all our members and supporters

Nuclear weapons abolition

MAPW contributed to the outstanding success of ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, through our ongoing support, actions and advocacy.

ICAN played a pivotal role in the achievement of the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted by the UN on 7 July, 2017, and was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts.

MAPW launched ICAN in 2006, and remains a key partner organisation.

MAPW members have:

- lobbied MPs, written in the media and spoken widely about the critical need for Australia to support the prohibition and elimination of all nuclear weapons
- delivered an open letter from health professionals to PM Turnbull

War's human impacts

MAPW has continued to highlight the extreme impact of war on civilians. We've urged the Australian government to

- greatly increase humanitarian aid rather than support for further bombing in Syria
- increase its aid for the people of Yemen rather than the arming of Saudi Arabia, and
- to use diplomacy rather than military provocations in dealing with North Korea.

Attacks on health care workers are a particular concern, and we've communicated with the Defence Department about its grossly unsatisfactory response to the October 2015 US attack on the MSF hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan.

War profiteering

- Our Melbourne University student group met with deputy vice-chancellors to protest their university's partnership with Lockheed Martin.
- Victorian members also petitioned MPs and their state parliament about the government's heavy military emphasis and the subsidies of the arms-trade fair at the Avalon air-show. We continue to pressure Canberra Airport to cease their promotions of the arms trade.
- MAPW has used FOI, questions in parliament and letters to government ministers to seek details of Australia's arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

- We challenged the conflicts of interest inherent in weapons company funding of the Australian War Memorial and of defence think-tanks

Australian foreign policy

We submitted to the Foreign Affairs White Paper process, advocating:

- Constructive engagement in UN disarmament work
- Improved funding for diplomacy, with a dedicated mediation unit
- Greatly increased funding for foreign aid
- War powers reform, so only parliament can decide whether we go to war
- The development of an independent foreign policy
- Recognition of the clear links between conflict and climate disruption.

We submitted to the parliamentary inquiry into the Bipartisan Australian Defence Agreement, advocating a number of measures including more transparent discussion of defence and security matters, and getting rid of the profit motive in determining our defense priorities.

Nuclear waste and the nuclear chain

MAPW, with our provision of reliable medical information, played a key role in the community campaigning that persuaded the SA Government to abandon its plans to import high level nuclear waste.

Current proposals for indefinite storage of Australia's own nuclear waste are clearly well below world's best practice. We have written to the nuclear safety regulator (ARPANSA) and lobbied relevant state and federal politicians. We have made submissions regarding generation IV nuclear reactor technology.

The commemoration of warfare

Events on Anzac Eve and Remembrance Day drew public attention to the "Never again" message.

Getting the word out

Members have had many letters to the paper and opinion pieces published on the above issues, and MAPW has put out media releases when appropriate. We have organised dinner events with speakers, and reached out to health professional colleagues to join us.

Working with others

We've collaborated with others who share our goals. MAPW members promote and take part in rallies to urge humane treatment of refugees who are fleeing war or oppression.

MAPW has always played a strong role in the work of our international federation, International Physicians for the Prevention of War.