



Nuclear Weapons

Addressing the Past – Protecting the Future

Eliminate nuclear weapons compensate test survivors

In 1972 the world banned biological weapons, in 1993 we banned chemical weapons, in 1997 we banned land mines, and in 2008 we banned cluster munitions. There are over 15,000 nuclear weapons globally. Let's make 2016 the year that we ban nuclear weapons and the year we properly care for those Australians who still suffer the consequences from the British nuclear tests in WA and SA.

Australian Defence Force personnel and many people from Aboriginal communities who were affected by the fallout from the British Nuclear Weapons tests in the 1950's and 1960's in Australia have been denied compensation and proper care for health impacts caused by radiation fallout from the tests.

While addressing the health and humanitarian impacts of the nuclear weapons tests of the past we must consider our future. There are 15,000 modern nuclear weapons globally that could be deployed at any time killing millions and causing catastrophic humanitarian harm. The only protection is to eliminate all nuclear weapons. For many years Australia has weakened global efforts towards nuclear disarmament by undermining global negotiations and advancing plans to sell uranium to nuclear weapons states.

> VETERANS

The Australian Greens policy to address the impact on nuclear veterans is to allocate a Veterans Gold Card to all surviving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel who participated in certain British Nuclear Tests conducted in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s. This entitles those survivors treatment for all conditions under the Veterans Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA).

> AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

The Australian Green policy to address the impact of nuclear weapons testing on Aboriginal communities in Australia includes

- Hold an inquiry into the health impacts from the British Atomic Weapons.

- Deliver compensation to people who were either forcibly removed or people who left their homes as a result of the atomic weapons testing in Australia
- Deliver compensation and an Atomic Survivors health care card for people with health impacts from the British Nuclear Tests conducted in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s and deliver compensation and an Atomic Survivors health care card to the descendants that display intergenerational health impacts.
- The Atomic Survivors health care card should give priority treatment for all medical conditions known to be caused by radiation exposure.

> SUPPORTING A GLOBAL BAN

There is growing momentum for a global treaty to ban nuclear weapons. In December 2015 the [UN General Assembly](#) voted¹ on a Humanitarian Pledge for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. 138 countries voted in favour, 29 voted against and 17 abstained. Australia voted against the motion.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has been dominated by nuclear weapons states and the slow and systemic weakening of safeguards. While there has been a reduction in the global nuclear weapons arsenal from over 60,000 in the 1980's to 15,000 in 2016² there are now more sophisticated and destructive nuclear weapons in more countries.

We are at a turning point in international co-operation on nuclear disarmament and Australia has a real opportunity to be on the right side of history by supporting a global ban treaty.

¹ <http://www.icanw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Pledge-Vote-2015.pdf>

² <http://thebulletin.org/nuclear-notebook-multi-media>

> BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The PBO estimated that to compensate the Australian Defence Force personnel and Aboriginal communities who continue to suffer adverse health impacts from the British nuclear weapons test would cost:

- Less than \$20 million a year to provide ADF Nuclear Test survivors with the Veterans Gold Card.
- Approximately \$110 million over the forward estimates to deliver compensation and an Atomic Survivors health care card to people demonstrating ongoing health impacts from the nuclear tests.

> DISARMAMENT VS DETERRENCE

Both the Labor and Liberal parties continue to rely on nuclear deterrence as part of Australia's defence strategy - the idea that the threat of nuclear war is enough to dissuade anyone from firing the first shot. This position relies on all nuclear armed nations (Russia, USA, UK, France, China, India, Pakistan and Israel, North Korea) always remaining in control of the nuclear arsenal, always electing or being governed by rational reasonable people, and relies on there never being an accident.

This position supports allows some countries to have nuclear weapons and prohibiting others from having nuclear weapons. The only way to protect against the catastrophic consequences of nuclear war is to eliminate nuclear weapons. The Australian Greens support the nuclear disarmament over nuclear deterrence. The development of a global treaty to ban nuclear weapons is the first step in a long process of eliminating nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear war.