A FRESH LOOK
at links between Australia and Germany
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Our strong belief is that our two nations should be doing much more together than we are at the present time. We see tremendous opportunities to grow our existing relationship to realise the true potential of closer Australian-German relations. We need to modernise our partnership to better reflect our common interests and values, the size and complementary nature of our two economies and the important roles both Germany and Australia play in our respective regions and globally.

**Warm relationship**

There is genuine warmth in the interpersonal interactions between Australians and Germans. This warmth comes from the contribution that many Australians of German descent have made to Australia’s development as well as long-standing historical and personal links. We have many common interests and shared values, reflected in our systems of government and adherence to the rule of law. We have both demonstrated international leadership through our involvement in important global institutions, including the G20 and the United Nations Security Council, as well as through our efforts to maintain peace and defend democracy. Europe, with Germany playing a leading role, is a very significant economic partner for Australia and Germany’s increasing engagement in the Indo-Pacific, the world’s fastest-growing region, is welcomed by Australia. Germany and Australia are both major trading nations and are the world’s fourth and twelfth-largest economies respectively. We have high quality education, research, cultural and sporting sectors which stand to gain from even closer cooperation.
**Tremendous opportunities**

There is great potential for our countries to work more closely together to tackle key international challenges. The dialogue between our Governments and Parliaments should be intensified on strategic, economic and social issues. There are opportunities to create structured exchanges on major international challenges involving our experts and think tanks. As two major and complementary economies, there would be significant advantages to both countries if we were to strengthen and expand our trade and investment relationship. There is great potential to increase student exchange numbers and we can do much more together in the areas of research, culture and sport.

**Counting on everyone**

We believe strongly that, if put into operation, our recommendations will be of great benefit to both countries and help create an enormously positive – and modern – relationship between Australia and Germany. With the support of our political leaders in both countries we believe that we can forge an even stronger bond between our countries that will benefit our citizens, businesses, investors and academic institutions. This will lead to significant economic, social and cultural benefits to both countries and will elevate our relationship to an exciting new level.
The recommendations in the Advisory Group’s report will make the very important Australia-Germany relationship a more modern and dynamic one, as befits two such strong economies and two countries so active internationally and regionally. It will bring our already very warm cooperation into the 21st Century.”

David Ritchie
Australian Ambassador to Germany

Complementary views on opportunities

Chancellor Angela Merkel of the Federal Republic of Germany and former Prime Minister Tony Abbott of Australia decided to create the Australia-Germany Advisory Group in November 2014. The two leaders recognised that Australia and Germany needed a more structured, high-level process to bring strategic depth to the relationship. They asked Maria Böhmer, German Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, and Mathias Cormann, Australian Minister for Finance, to co-chair the Advisory Group. Its mandate was to identify ways to broaden, strengthen and deepen the relationship between Australia and Germany.

The members of the Australia-Germany Advisory Group have developed highly productive working relationships. The group met as a whole twice, on 10 July 2015 in Berlin and on 23 October 2015 in Canberra. In addition, there have been several ad hoc meetings between Australian and German members responsible for particular subject areas. From the beginning, the views of the Australian and German sides have been complementary. The members see clearly the enormous opportunities to build a closer bilateral relationship of genuine substance.
16,065.18 kilometres between Berlin and Canberra – an extremely short distance for an email

The work undertaken by our Advisory Group is long overdue. The challenge is to move the relationship beyond the obvious interpersonal warmth demonstrated, for example, by the steady exchange of tourists and working holiday visitors between the two countries. Both sides needed to overcome the perception of geographical distance as a barrier to a closer, deeper relationship. The goal is to build a relationship befitting two countries that are major economies and important, like-minded international and regional players.

We propose a series of practical and exciting initiatives aimed at adding substance to our relationship and bringing it into the 21st century. They derive from major programmes in both countries, such as Germany’s ‘Industry 4.0’ policies, from areas where we have strong shared interests such as the energy and resources sector and from fields in which we can exchange experiences and learn from each other, such as research commercialisation, city planning and immigration and integration matters.
FACTS & FIGURES AUSTRALIA

AREA
7,692,024 KM²

SHORTFACTS

→ National holiday: 26th January (Australia Day)

→ Language: English is the national language but more than 300 languages are spoken in Australian homes. The most common are Mandarin, Italian, Arabic, Cantonese and Greek. One in ten Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people speak an Australian Indigenous language at home.

→ Currency: The Australian Dollar (AUD), is the fifth most traded currency in the world. In 1996, Australia became the first country in the world to have a complete series of polymer notes.

NATURE
Australia has more than 386 mammal species, 828 bird species, over 5,000 fish species, over 917 species of reptile including two crocodile species, over 227 species of frog and over 26,845 species of plants, of which over 86% are found nowhere else on earth.

STATES
Australia is a federation made up of six states and two territories.

SHORTFACTS
→ Proportion of population born overseas: 28%
→ Commerce: In 2013, Australia was ranked by the World Bank as the fourth fastest place in the world in which to start a new business – it can take just three days.
→ Education: Australia’s secondary school enrolment rate is the highest in the world.

SHORTFACTS
→ Tourism: Australia welcomed 7.1 million visitors in 2014–15, who spent A$33.4 billion and more than 200 million nights in Australia.
→ World Heritage: 19 UNESCO World Heritage sites are located in Australia.
→ Top two-way trading partners: China, Japan, United States, Republic of Korea, and Singapore

Universities: Australia is home to 43 universities, 6 of which are in the top 100 in the world according to the 2015–16 Times Higher Education University Rankings.

International students: Education is Australia’s 3rd largest export, welcoming over 500,000 students per year.
OVERVIEW

AUSTRALIA

Australia is a country of striking landscapes, a rich ancient culture and one of the world’s strongest economies. It is the sixth-largest country in land area and is the only nation to govern an entire continent.

With a spectacular natural environment, high quality of life and great diversity, Australia is a sought after destination for international tourists. More than seven million visitors come to Australia each year, attracted by world-class food and wine, beautiful beaches, unique flora and fauna, friendly people and a relaxed atmosphere. It has 10 percent of the world’s biodiversity and a great number of its native plants and animals exist nowhere else on earth. From tropical rainforests in the north to the red deserts of the centre, from the snowfields of the south-east to the Australian Antarctic Territory, it is a vast and varied land. Australia has 19 World Heritage sites including the Great Barrier Reef, Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park and the Sydney Opera House.

Australia is home to the world’s oldest living cultures, with over 60,000 years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history pre-existing European settlement. Today, Australia is one of the world’s most multicultural countries, rich in Indigenous and immigrant cultures.

Australia is a successful and prosperous nation, ranked second in the United Nations Development Programme’s Human Development Report 2014. Australia’s economy is consistently ranked among the strongest advanced economies in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. It is the world’s twelfth largest economy and a top performing nation on almost every measure of excellence, from health to wealth, from ease of doing business to educational attainment. With low unemployment, low inflation and a highly skilled workforce, and with strong links with the fastest-growing region in the world, the Indo-Pacific, Australia’s economy is set to prosper well into the future.

Australia’s foreign and trade policy promotes its security and long-term prosperity. It seeks to protect and advance its national interests in a rapidly changing environment, while supporting a stable global order. Australia has been integrally involved in global efforts to build peace and security for decades, just as it has in promoting global trade and investment liberalisation. Australia is a good international citizen, helping in times of crisis and supporting economic development in its region.
Australia was one of the first countries to establish democracy in the modern world. In the mid-nineteenth century, Australian colonies set about writing constitutions which produced democratically elected parliaments. The 1901 Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia sets out the powers of the Commonwealth and states. Australian democracy has at its heart the following core defining values: freedom of election and being elected, freedom of assembly and political participation, freedom of speech, expression and religious belief, rule of law, and other basic human rights.

The Australian Government follows the British (Westminster) tradition. The Governor-General, representing the Crown, exercises the supreme executive power of the Commonwealth. In practice, the Governor-General acts on the advice of the head of the Government, the Prime Minister, and other ministers.
GERMANY
FACTS & FIGURES GERMANY

SHORTFACTS

→ National holiday: October 3rd (German Unity Day)

→ Language: German is the language spoken most frequently in the European Union. It is the mother tongue of 100 million people. But many other languages are spoken in German homes, too. Among the most common are Turkish, Polish and Russian.

→ Currency: Euro (€)

AREA

357,168 KM²

POPULATION DENSITY

232 INHABITANTS PER SQUARE KILOMETRE

SIGHTSEEING:
The most popular tourist attraction is the Cologne Cathedral.

NATURE

31% of Germany’s territory is forested.

NOBEL PRIZE:
There are 104 German Nobel Prize laureates. (Picture: Willy Brandt 1971).
BERLIN
52° 31’ N, 13° 24’ E


SHORTFACTS
→ Trade fairs: Two thirds of globally important industry events are held in Germany. Every year, 10 million visitors attend around 150 international trade fairs and exhibitions.

→ Patent registration:
Number one in Europe in patent registrations. In 2014 German companies filed around 32,000 applications for patent protection to the European Patent Office in Munich. The same year, 65,958 inventions were registered with the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) – a new record.

→ World Heritage: 40 UNESCO World Heritage sites are located in Germany.

→ Culture: Around 300 theatres, 130 professional orchestras, 80 musical theatres and 630 art museums.

→ Imported goods:
They mainly come from the Netherlands, China, France, the USA, and Italy.

→ Exported goods: Germany is famous for automobile manufacturing, mechanical and plant engineering, chemicals and medical technology.

Universities: There are 399 institutes of higher education, of which 121 are universities, 220 are universities of applied sciences and 58 are art and music academies.

International students: Germany is the most popular non-English-speaking host country for international students, attracting about 300,000 foreign students per year.
OVERVIEW

GERMANY

A united Germany: development driven by democracy, freedom and openness
In 2015, Germany celebrated 25 years of unification. The formerly divided country has grown together in peace and freedom. German unity was a milestone on the road to a united Europe. A free, open and democratic European Union fascinates people around the world. Its history serves as a reminder to Germany that democracy, freedom and human and civil rights must be shored up time and again in constant dialogue with all forces in society. Germany has reshaped its economy since 1989. German society has become more open and is now home to people from around the world.

A European Germany: commitment to a strong Europe based on the principle of solidarity
A ‘peaceful and united Europe’ is not only a lesson from the past, but also the best response to the challenges of the present. A key aim of German policy is to strengthen European unity and to make it more attractive for all Europeans with the specific combination of freedom and cohesion, the market economy and global competitiveness, as well as social justice and inclusion. The European Union and the Euro (€)
provide the framework for growth and employment. The European Union can make a difference in our complex world and promotes stability, prosperity and social justice, as well as helps to protect human rights.

**A responsible Germany: commitment to peace, human rights and sustainable development**

The current crises and conflicts in the world are having a direct impact on Germany. They are the acute expression of fundamental changes and competing systems. Tackling conflicts with pro-active, far-sighted policies and helping to allay and minimise their causes as well as to invest in an order that promotes development – this is what Germany owes to its shared responsibility with its partners and its own interests. Germany is committed to peace, disarmament, arms control and human rights, as well as promoting the rule of law and sustainable development with a wide range of foreign policy tools. Germany can only achieve these goals together with its European, transatlantic and other like-minded partners around the world.

**An open-minded Germany: business, culture and education – Germany is globally connected and open to cooperation**

German products, culture and the education system enjoy an excellent reputation. Germany’s success is based on high quality, ethical responsibility, an international outlook and a social market economy. Germany is committed to a high level of occupational safety, a living wage and active social partnerships. The country’s future depends on networking, dialogue and cooperation in the fields of business, art, education and science with countries around the world. With a broad concept of culture, an attractive location for education, innovation and science and with a high quality of life, Germany offers a wide range of opportunities.

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Paragraph one of the *German Basic Law* on a glass plate at the parliament in Berlin.

(1) Human dignity shall be inviolable. To respect and protect it shall be the duty of all state authority.

(2) The German people therefore acknowledge inviolable and inalienable human rights as the basis of every community, of peace and of justice in the world.

(3) The following basic rights shall bind the legislature, the executive and the judiciary as directly applicable law.
DEEPEN BUSINESS LINKS BY REMOVING BARRIERS TO TRADE, INVESTMENT AND PEOPLE MOVEMENT BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND GERMANY

BROADEN COLLABORATION ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, INCLUDING THE ‘INTERNET OF EVERYTHING’, STEM AND ICT EDUCATION

STRENGTHEN DIALOGUE ON ENERGY SECURITY, RESOURCES, AND CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED MATTERS
TRADE AND INVESTMENT
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Global challenges

Australia and Germany have open markets for trade and investment and high ratings for ease of doing business. It is in both countries common interest to further improve the business environment and promote economic growth.

Digitisation and the internet increasingly shape the way we think and act. The internet is catalysing fundamental societal and economic changes, causing our world to shrink in space and time. This presents challenges and opportunities for advanced, open, trading economies such as Australia and Germany.

Energy security is an increasingly critical issue against a background of growing worldwide energy demand and the need to protect the environment.

Economy in Australia

Making up nearly 75 per cent of Australia’s GDP and four out of five jobs, the services sector dominates Australia’s economy. Financial and insurance services, construction, and health care and social assistance services are of particular importance. While agriculture and resources account for only 11 per cent of GDP, the two sectors provide around 60 per cent of Australia’s exports.

With abundant resources, skilled professionals and cutting-edge technology, Australia is a leader in the global mining industry and is among the largest producers of bauxite, iron and zinc ore, nickel and gold. It is also a major supplier of energy, including coal, natural gas and uranium. The sector is expanding, driven by a huge demand for raw materials from the rapidly growing economies of Asia. The scale of the resources industry has helped Australia to become a world leader in the development and manufacture of mining equipment, technology and services.

The Australian economy has been growing continuously over the past 24 years with an average of 3.2 per cent growth per year. Australia’s strong economic performance, extremely stable legal and social conditions, combined with its proximity to and experience in working with Asian nations, makes Australia a dynamic place to do business.
Economy in Germany

Germany is the largest economy in Europe, the fourth-largest in the world and the world’s third-largest exporter. In 2014, the McKinsey Global Institute listed Germany as the best-networked country worldwide.

Every second euro earned in Germany is generated through an international business transaction and around 800,000 companies engage in foreign trade. The European Union (EU) is the most important market for German goods and attracts 58 per cent of all exports. Thus, many German firms participate in the European value chains. However, economic and trade relations with emerging markets are becoming ever more important and today 5,000 German companies have investments in China alone.

Whereas German direct investments abroad (FDIs) have increased fivefold since 1990 to €919 billion (2013), foreign investors are responsible for 3 million jobs in Germany, with the value of foreign direct investments of €458 billion.

Energiewende

The ‘energy transition’ is Germany’s path to a secure, environmentally friendly and economically successful future. It represents the decision to fully overhaul Germany’s energy supply, moving away from nuclear energy in favour of renewable energy sources. The aim is for half of the country’s energy supply to be provided by renewable energy sources by 2030. At the same time, Germany plans to use this energy ever more efficiently. By the middle of the century, energy consumption should be reduced by half.

“Energy security is an important area where Australia and Germany have complementary interests. Australia is a major exporter and trader of energy commodities, particularly gas, and Germany an importer. We look forward to working with our German counterparts to investigate ways in which these complementary interests may be satisfied.”

Energiewende

Clean energy production at an offshore wind park.

Michael Chaney
Chairman of National Australia Bank Ltd, Chairman of Woodside Petroleum Ltd, Chancellor of the University of Western Australia

“Energy security is an important area where Australia and Germany have complementary interests. Australia is a major exporter and trader of energy commodities, particularly gas, and Germany an importer. We look forward to working with our German counterparts to investigate ways in which these complementary interests may be satisfied.”

Energiewende

Clean energy production at an offshore wind park.
A fresh look at links between Australia and Germany

Manufacturing is the mainstay of the German economy, with the export sector dominated by automobiles and machinery. New sectors such as IT, biotechnology and renewable energy are growing markedly. Germany invests around €80 billion annually in research and development (R&D). Many companies are well on the way to ‘Industry 4.0’, a project particularly targeted to advancing digitisation in production, engineering and logistics.

Germany has a strong philosophy of market diversification to balance risk and protect its competitive advantage. It believes that future product and service differentiation will be created by quality, innovation and sustainability, and is prepared to invest wherever it finds genuine excellence in these areas.

German Government policy encourages the internationalisation of research and industrial collaboration by the ‘Mittelstand’, the small and medium-sized enterprises that are the engine room of the German economy and have traditionally relied on alliances built around regional clusters within Germany. This is opening up opportunities to target and attract new investment from this large section of the German economy, which is characterised by high levels of private ownership, low levels of debt and a high degree of investment in technology.

Volkmar Klein
Member of the German Bundestag, Chair of the German-Australian-New Zealand Parliamentary Group

“Australia and Germany are like-minded nations. We share the same values and have various common interests. It’s rewarding to deepen the friendship between our nations and to intensify not only the bilateral cooperation, but include the respective neighbourhoods. Australia’s huge expertise in the regulation of the mining sector together with Germany’s dense network in Africa can empower African states to generate maximum advantage from their resources.”

Industry 4.0
To learn more about this project identified by the German government to secure and build upon Germany’s technological leadership role in global advanced manufacturing, please consult Germany Trade and Invest’s extensive brochure:
Links between Australia and Germany

Innovation and R&D
Australia and Germany share strong ties in innovation and research. There are currently more than 500 formal agreements between Australian and German universities, which promote research partnerships.

Areas of research strength between the two nations are physics, biology, clinical medicine, earth sciences, basic medicine and chemistry and Joint Australian-German research has an average research impact of over four times the world average.

There is rich collaboration between the countries.
- German companies in Australia are significant partners in research. For example, Bayer CropScience spends $30 million annually on R&D in Australia and BASF opened its global mining research and development centre at the Australian Minerals Research Centre in Perth in 2012.
- Germany is a principal partner with the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science in Connecting Australia-European Science and Innovation Excellence (CAESIE), a joint Australian-European project which has created 62 business-researcher collaborations between Australia and Europe including 11 with Germany.
- German organisations feature in 34 Australian Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs). A prominent example includes the CRC for Advanced Composite Structures.
- Germany ranks third in Europe for Endeavour awardees studying in Australia, behind the United Kingdom and Italy. Germany ranks second as a destination for Australian students undertaking Endeavour Awards, behind the UK.

Bilateral trade
Germany was Australia’s 16th largest goods and services export market, valued at A$2.9 billion in 2014. It is also Australia’s fifth largest source of imports – valued at A$13.9 billion – making it the 10th largest trading partner, valued at A$16.7 billion.

Bilateral investment
In 2014, German investment in Australia totalled A$40 billion, of which approximately A$15.8 billion was foreign direct investment (FDI), while Australia’s total investment in Germany stood in 2014 at A$65.4 billion. Germany is Australia’s 10th largest source of FDI.

Australia has attracted over 700 German-owned businesses, including 480 German subsidiary companies employing more than 100,000 people across automotive and advanced manufacturing (Bosch, Hella, Continental, ZF, Fuchs, Carl Zeiss), ICT (SAP Research, Software AG, Siemens, IMC), pharmaceuticals/chemicals (Boehringer Ingelheim, Bayer, BASF, Evonik, Fresenius Medical Care), logistics and transport (DB-Schenker, DHL), clean technologies (Remondis) banking/insurance (Deutsche Bank, Munich RE, Commerzbank, Allianz) and clean energy (SMA, Schueco, Degerenergie).
THE AUSTRALIA-GERMANY ADVISORY GROUP RECOMMENDS:

Trade and investment flows between Australia and Germany are significant, reflecting both countries’ open markets and high ratings for ease of doing business. However, for countries which are the world’s fourth and twelfth largest economies, the full potential of the bilateral commercial relationship has not been reached.

The Group considered a number of ways to mitigate or remove barriers to bilateral trade and investment. Members acknowledged the transformational effect that a future European Union-Australia Free Trade Agreement would have in opening new markets. Modernising bilateral tax arrangements and facilitating easier movement between labour markets through appropriate recognition of relevant qualifications would enhance business conditions.

Members recognised the value of direct business to business interaction and considered a number of mechanisms to enhance this. Matching Germany’s expertise in developing high-tech solutions with Australia’s prowess for innovative implementation would take advantage of our economic complementarities and respective thought leadership. Members noted the potential for cooperation in global energy markets, given Germany’s objective to diversify its energy supply and Australia’s position as a major energy exporter.
DEEPEN BUSINESS LINKS BY REMOVING BARRIERS TO TRADE, INVESTMENT AND PEOPLE MOVEMENT BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND GERMANY

1. Germany will provide ongoing support in the EU for the commencement of negotiations on an Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement.
2. Both governments will develop a new MOU on qualifications recognition, replacing the 1998 agreement.
3. Germany and Australia will sign a new Double Taxation Treaty in November 2015.
4. Subject to the final decision by the Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business, Australia will host the 2018 Asia Pacific Conference of German Business.
5. The Australian Embassy in Jakarta will deliver an event for Australian, German and Indonesian business and government representatives to help build trilateral cooperation involving the public and private sectors.
6. As part of the Government’s efforts to lift investment attraction capability, Australia will establish a Trade Commissioner (Investment) position based in Frankfurt to promote and attract FDI, as well as strengthen the trade and international education relationship.
7. The Australian Trade Commission will coordinate a visit to Australia by German multi national corporations via a targeted trade fair/business matching event.
8. Australia will explore measures that could facilitate the freer movement of human capital involved in key innovation industries between Australia and Germany, including consideration of when a Premium Investor Visa or other mobility and talent attraction measures could be applied to Germany.
9. Australia and Germany will strengthen bilateral engagement on digital government to be conducted through Australia’s Digital Transformation Office and Germany’s counterpart agency.
10. SAP and Siemens will collaborate with government and industry in both countries to promote increased thought leadership on digital transformation, including initiating a collaborative approach to the development of global Industry 4.0 standards.
11. Australia will investigate opportunities to work with Germany through the OECD’s Southeast Asia Regional Programme on Education and Skills, including by benchmarking occupational standards and strengthening industry engagement in training systems in Asia.

STRENGTHEN DIALOGUE ON ENERGY SECURITY, RESOURCES, AND CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED MATTERS

12. Australia and Germany will establish a bilateral working group on energy and resources. The group will explore how Australia, as a net exporter of energy and resources, can support German needs. It will discuss climate change, including lessons and opportunities from Germany’s energy transition (Energiewende). The Group will explore options for involving non government institutions in innovative energy research fields.
13. The Australian Strategic Policy Institute will undertake a study on Australia’s role as a strategic supplier of LNG, which will include a focus on potential options for a strategic relationship with Germany on energy security.
14. Australia and Germany will enhance government-to-government dialogue on international energy governance reform at major multilateral meetings.
15. Australian and German business representatives will hold an inaugural workshop involving Australian-based LNG producers and German buyers in the margins of the LNG18 conference in Perth in 2016.
ESTABLISH NEW GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT LINKS ON FOREIGN, DEFENCE, AND SECURITY POLICY BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND GERMANY

STRENGTHEN DIALOGUE ON EUROPEAN AND INDO-PACIFIC ISSUES
STRATEGIC DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATION
A fresh look at links between Australia and Germany

STRATEGIC DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATION

Global challenges

Global issues take no heed of national borders and can only be resolved when the greatest possible number of states and societies work together. In a globalised world, we face many challenges and these must be tackled simultaneously. Australia and Germany can be complementary partners in our parts of the world and at the same time cooperate on global challenges.

Australia and the world

Looking outward

Australia is an outward-looking country that is strongly engaged with the rest of the world and is building strong and enduring ties with many countries. These bonds have been forged through history, through common strategic interests, through trade and through people-to-people relations.

Australia is active in many global and regional institutions. It was a founding member of the United Nations and is among the leading contributors to the UN’s regular and peacekeeping budgets.

In its international economic engagement, Australia aims to build greater prosperity for Australia and the world. To achieve this, Australia supports efforts to liberalise trade, boost economic growth, encourage investments and assist business through economic diplomacy.

Australia is strongly committed to building a rules-based international order which advances and protects the interests of all nations and peoples. Australia plays an active role in a wide array of global and regional groups.

Australia’s foreign and trade policy focuses on strengthening its already significant engagement with countries in the dynamic Indo-Pacific region. As a founding member of APEC and an active participant in the East Asia Summit, Australia is helping to build regional institutions that foster stability, security and prosperity across the region.

Australia has close, long standing bilateral ties with its neighbour Indonesia, as well as strong ties with the other member nations of
the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Australia also has significant relations with the major states of Northeast Asia – China, Japan and the Republic of Korea – which are also major markets, and with India.

Beyond its region, Australia continues to build on its strong and longstanding political, cultural, trade, investment, and people-to-people links with the United Kingdom and Europe. Australia enjoys strong economic, security, political, social and cultural ties with the United States and Canada. Australia is committed to a broad-based, creative partnership with the European Union, addressing the contemporary challenges of economic management and international trade, development, security, and international governance.

Australia values the active, constructive and effective role Germany plays on a wide range of international political and economic issues, including meeting common challenges such as terrorism, governance, protection of human rights, and sustainable development and climate change.

**Defence and security**

Australia works closely with other countries to promote security and stability in the immediate region as well as globally. Australia’s response to security challenges, such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, cyber threats, maritime security and weak and failing states, is multi-dimensional, with many areas of government playing a role.

A versatile and modern defence force, strong bilateral links and an ongoing commitment to a rules-based global order and the United Nations are all key elements of Australia’s approach.

Australia provides assistance to Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and other Pacific Island countries, helping them maintain stability and protect their security. Australia is also working with countries in South-East Asia on law enforcement and counter-terrorism to help build their capacity in this area.

Regionally and multilaterally, Australia continues to work with others to address traditional and non-traditional security issues. Australia has been a significant non-NATO contributor to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, and will continue to contribute to Afghanistan’s security and stability. Australia is also a leader in global efforts for non-proliferation and disarmament, and counter-terrorism.

**Peace and humanitarian missions**

Since 1947, more than 65,000 Australians have served in more than 50 peace and security operations around the world. In its own neighbourhood, Australia has helped build peace in regional missions in Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (Papua New Guinea). As the nature of peace operations has evolved, so too has Australia’s contribution, with an increasing focus on policing and civilian components and on helping nations to build their capabilities and national institutions.
“Germany is becoming increasingly aware that not only economic, but also political and geopolitical developments in the Asia-Pacific matter to us. Therefore, a strategic dialogue with like-minded partners like Australia is so important. At the same time, we would also like our Australian friends to heighten their interest for Europe.”

**Germany and the world**

The key challenges are international peace and security, sustainable growth, stability of financial markets, management of climate change, freedom of movement and trade, cyber security, crisis prevention, confronting terrorism, promoting free societies, safeguarding cultural identities and heritage, supporting people-to-people contacts, and defending our values. Any of these alone is a daunting task, and some of them occur in parallel and in hybrid forms.

In dealing with these challenges, Germany’s foreign policy is value-oriented and interest-led. Its foreign policy agenda is based in Europe and anchored in the transatlantic partnership.

**Europe**

European integration and the European Union have built a Europe without dividing lines, with a strong internal market and a stable currency. European integration has brought Germany lasting peace. After centuries of confrontation, Germany has found its place in a united Europe.

Germany contributes and benefits economically in a strong Europe. The greater part of Germany’s exports go to its European neighbours. The financial and debt crisis in Europe has brought about an unparalleled show of solidarity within the European Union and the Eurozone. At the same time, Germany is working for sound budget management and greater competitiveness of the EU.

The EU provides a response to globalisation for Germany and our European partners. It ensures that Europeans can live lives worthy of their ideas and values.
Maintaining security
Germany is convinced that the international community should work with an astute blend of diplomacy, development cooperation and economic and environmental policy steps, as well as security policy tools to create a safer world for the next generations to come.

Current developments in Syria, the security policy risks in the Middle East, the attempts by terrorists to seize power in Mali, the violent conflict in the Central African Republic and piracy off the coast of Somalia all demonstrate conversely that traditional challenges and threats of a military nature remain on Germany’s and Europe’s doorstep.

German security policy therefore seeks to counter such developments within NATO and the European Union. In this context, special importance is attached to the commitment to concrete steps forward on disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Germany is shouldering responsibility for security worldwide; its participation in international missions requires the approval of the German Bundestag. The German Navy is part of international maritime groups to contribute to maritime security. Germany is supporting logistics and training missions and stabilising crisis-torn areas through measures including the use of combat forces.

In Afghanistan, peace and stability remain a challenge. Afghan security forces are assuming more and more responsibility, meaning the role of international troops is gradually being reduced to advising, supporting and training. Germany provides military presence as long as necessary and is strongly committed to an increasingly civilian engagement. Germany remains the third-largest donor.

In the countries swept by change in North Africa, Germany has set up transformation partnerships to further the development of democracy and the economy.

Together with its European partners, Germany is endeavouring to find a long-term solution to the conflicts in the Balkans by providing the region with European prospects.

To strengthen the OSCE as a forum for dialogue, as a bridge between East and West, as an operative instrument for European crisis prevention, and as an institution that plays a concrete active role Germany will be assuming the OSCE Chairmanship in 2016.

Finally, Germany is helping protect German data networks by implementing a cyber-security policy geared to preparedness and international agreements.
Globalisation

Germany advocates binding rules and effective international institutions to open the way for ordered and coordinated interaction in today’s networked world. This is an important prerequisite for political and economic stability.

Germany wants globalisation to follow generally accepted norms that Germany in turn can help shape. Germany is looking to institutions such as the EU, NATO and the United Nations, institutions which have all stood the test of time. In parallel, Germany has entered into partnerships with the new powers which are changing the world with their increasing political and economic clout. These powers want to and should help shape the international framework, for example through the G20.

Asia is the world’s most dynamically growing region and will continue to consolidate this position in the 21st century. At the same time, Asia is faced with problems of global significance. German foreign policy takes both of these dimensions into account, for example through a strategic partnership with China.

With its strategy paper ‘Shaping globalisation – expanding partnerships – sharing responsibility’, Germany laid the foundation to expand cooperation with rising nations on the globalisation issues facing today’s world. On the foundation of the EU’s strategic partnerships, Germany is making its political, economic and cultural cooperation with these countries more intensive and more comprehensive.

Links between Australia and Germany

Australia and Germany enjoy an open and cooperative relationship underpinned by extensive political, economic and social links.

On 28 January 2013, Australia and Germany signed a Strategic Partnership (Berlin-Canberra Declaration), which marked the 60th anniversary of Australian-German bilateral relations.

Peter Jennings
Executive Director of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI)

“ASPI will be delighted to host a strategic dialogue with our SWP partners in 2016 to deepen our understanding of critical issues like counter-terrorism, defence industry cooperation and cyber security. Our aim is to improve Australian and German policies based on our shared values while contributing to global security.”
As long-standing and active members of the United Nations with strong credentials in peacekeeping and other forms of multilateral engagement, Australia and Germany are working together to advance the objectives of the United Nations and reform the United Nations system. They are strengthening their co-ordination and cooperation on UN and global issues in capitals and in key UN forums.

Australia and Germany support the partnership between NATO and Australia.

Australia and Germany are committed to supporting a secure and stable Afghanistan at the centre of a secure and thriving region.

Australia and Germany work to deepen their defence dialogue and cooperation by maintaining a programme of regular consultations and visits at the political, civilian and military levels. Australia and Germany have a long and distinguished record of promoting global arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

THE AUSTRALIA-GERMANY ADVISORY GROUP RECOMMENDS:

Australia and Germany are important players in our respective regions, as well as being like-minded on many key international issues and sharing core values. The rise of globalisation and new powers has increased the rationale for Australia and Germany to enhance our exchange and cooperation on the most pressing strategic challenges. Yet the bilateral architecture for our ministers and strategic thinkers to exchange views and work together is undeveloped. The Group proposes a number of recommendations to address this.

ESTABLISH NEW GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT LINKS ON FOREIGN, DEFENCE, AND SECURITY POLICY BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND GERMANY

16. Starting in 2016, Germany and Australia will inaugurate an annual ‘2+2’ strategic dialogue involving Foreign and Defence Ministers from both countries.

17. Both countries will work to strengthen bilateral dialogue on security, especially counter-terrorism issues, with an initial meeting between Ministers responsible for counter-terrorism to be held in early 2016.

18. Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Germany’s Federal Foreign Office will initiate a formal exchange of diplomatic officers, involving 6 to 12-month placements in respective foreign ministries.

STRENGTHEN DIALOGUE ON EUROPEAN AND INDO-PACIFIC ISSUES

19. Australia and Germany will inaugurate in 2016 an annual bilateral 1.5 track dialogue, jointly hosted by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs.

20. Australia and Germany will inaugurate a regular Asia Dialogue at senior officials’ level.

21. The regular bilateral Development Dialogue at senior officials’ level will be sustained and enhanced.
INCREASE COLLABORATION ON INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALISATION

EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE STUDENT EXCHANGE BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND GERMANY

INTENSIFY ONGOING AND SUSTAINED CONVERSATIONS ON SCIENCE, RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TRAINING
SCIENCE AND EDUCATION
Global challenges

Science and education for growth and prosperity
In a globalised knowledge-based society in which education and expertise are universally available and instantly accessible, international networking is essential. It is a necessary condition for increased knowledge and technological progress, as well as for growth and prosperity in Australia and Germany.

Science and education to tackle global challenges
Innovations and new technologies are changing the world and our daily lives. Investment in research, innovation and skills is indispensable to maintain and enhance the competitiveness of our companies. Dynamic levels of innovation will ensure long-term growth, prosperity and new jobs.

Innovation is driven by new technologies, processes and services. Social changes and global challenges such as climate change, and demographic shifts demand innovative answers and sustainable solutions. International exchanges are an excellent way to seek joint solutions to these challenges. They foster greater understanding between societies and cultures.

Shaping global learning
Both countries aim to raise their international profiles as centres of learning and research to promote close cooperation with partners both at home and abroad.

Professor Brian Schmidt
Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Australian National University

“Australia and Germany have accomplished so much together in science and education without even thinking about it. This includes, for example, the work that lead to my Nobel Prize. Imagine what we are going to be able to do with some strategic planning!”
Science and education in Australia

Australia’s development has been forged through its enterprising spirit. Australian innovations have improved the lives of billions – from the black box flight recorder to Google Maps, from Wi-Fi technology to the bionic ear, from spray-on skin to a vaccine for cervical cancer.

Science

Australia’s research institutions are among the world’s best and offer unsurpassed opportunities for industry partnerships. Australian scientists collaborate internationally in many fields from coral reef management to medicine. In 2012, Australia won the right to co-host, with South Africa, the world’s largest radio telescope, the Square Kilometre Array, which will give the world’s astronomers new insights into the universe. Business expenditure on research and development is increasingly recognising Australia’s research excellence: it has more than tripled in the last decade, reaching A$18.3 billion in 2011–12. Australia has always been an early adopter of innovations and new technologies and is a global leader in five diverse sectors – agribusiness, education, tourism, mining and wealth management – with 16 out of 20 industries having productivity levels above global averages.

An increasing number of innovative international companies have recognised these strengths and established facilities in Australia. In 2014, more than 18,000 international companies were registered in Australia and many are involved in specific product development initiatives with Australians, for example Boeing, Canon, IBM, GE and Baosteel.
Education

Australia’s education system is recognised around the world as equipping learners with the necessary skills and knowledge to be globally capable citizens. Schooling in Australia is compulsory between the ages of six and sixteen. Children start in primary school before moving into secondary school and then senior secondary school, with many students going on to tertiary education, at either a vocational education and training provider or higher education institution.

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is the overarching framework which facilitates pathways to, and through, formal qualifications and assists students to move easily and readily between different education and training sectors and between those sectors and the labour market.

Australia’s university sector is well recognised internationally with six Australian universities among the world’s top 100 higher education institutions in the 2015 – 16 Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Australian Universities are active in international research and collaboration and provide students with opportunities to be self-directed, critical thinkers with strong problem solving skills. These are things that will help students to fully participate in the global labour market.

Each year over 500,000 international students choose to undertake study in Australia making it one of the world’s most popular countries for students studying overseas. Students are able to choose from over 1,000 providers of education and over 26,000 approved courses.

Science and Research in Australia

In addition to a strong university network of 43 universities, Australia has a cooperative Research Network Programme and nationally important Publicly Funded Research Agencies:

Industry Growth Centres Initiative
The Initiative is a sector based approach which will drive innovation, productivity and competitiveness by concentrating Australia’s investment on key growth sectors. Each Growth Centre will set a long-term strategy for its sector which will include improving the sector’s capabilities to engage with international markets and global supply chains. www.business.gov.au

Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs)
CRCs are collaborations of private sector organisations (both large and small enterprises), industry associations, universities and government research agencies such as the CSIRO, and other end users which undertake research and development leading to outcomes that have positive social and economic impacts. www.business.gov.au

The Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs)
The RDCs are corporations and industry-owned companies which are the Australian Government’s primary funding bodies for rural research and development in Australia. www.ruralrdc.com.au

National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS)
The National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) delivers world class research facilities so that Australian researchers can solve complex problems both here in Australia and around the globe. The NCRIS network currently supports national research capability through 27 active projects and is comprised of 222 institutions employing almost 1,700 highly skilled technical experts, researchers and facility managers. www.education.gov.au

CSIRO
The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is Australia’s leading multidisciplinary research organisation. It plays a vital role in enhancing collaboration within the Australian national innovation system, and as a trusted advisor to government, industry and the community. www.csiro.au

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)
ANSTO is Australia’s national nuclear research and development organisation and centre of Australian nuclear expertise. It is the custodian of landmark infrastructure, the OPAL multipurpose research reactor. www.ansto.gov.au

Australian Antarctic Division
The Antarctic Division advances Australia’s strategic, scientific, environmental and economic interests in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. It delivers world class research relevant to the sound environmental stewardship of the Australian Antarctic Territories, the Southern Ocean and the Heard and McDonald Islands. www.antarctica.gov.au
Science and education in Germany

Education, science and research play a central role in Germany. In a world of globalised markets, education lays the foundation that enables us to exploit the opportunities offered by open borders and worldwide knowledge networks.

Science

Science and research in Germany are characterised by an excellent infrastructure, a wide variety of disciplines, well-equipped research facilities and highly skilled staff. Germany offers various forms of research locations: universities, non-university institutes, companies and institutions run by federal or state (‘Länder’) authorities. All in all, there are nearly 1,000 public and publicly-funded institutions of science, research and development in Germany, plus research and development (R&D) centres run by companies.

Based on the principle of ‘the unity of research and teaching’, German universities are not only establishments for teaching students, but are also engaged in top-level research. This requires close collaboration between scientists and research institutes both inside and outside Germany. The universities are financed by public funds, foundations and research work commissioned by third parties.

Germany’s scientific institutes

Cutting-edge research is also being done at hundreds of scientific institutes that are grouped together in the following organisations:

Max Planck Gesellschaft
Max Planck Institutes undertake basic research in the natural sciences, life sciences and social sciences as well as the humanities.
www.mpg.de

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft
This society is engaged in applied research. Its projects are commissioned by industry and service providers as well as state-run institutions.
www.fraunhofer.de

Leibniz-Gemeinschaft
The Leibniz Institutes work in an interdisciplinary fashion, and connect basic and applied science in the fields of humanities, educational research, economics, social sciences, spatial research, life sciences, mathematics, natural sciences, engineering, environmental research.
www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de

Helmholtz Gemeinschaft
Being Germany’s largest scientific organisation, it conducts research in the fields of aeronautics, space and transport, earth and environment, energy, health, matter as well as key technologies.
www.helmholtz.de

DAAD
The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is an organisation run jointly by the German institutions of higher education. Its purpose is to promote relations between higher education institutions in Germany and abroad, especially through exchange schemes among students and academics. Its programmes generally cover all disciplines and countries and are open to German and foreign students in equal measure. The DAAD supports a worldwide network of offices, lecturers and alumni associations and provides information and advice on a local basis.
www.daad.de

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
The Foundation promotes international academic cooperation between excellent scientists and scholars. Its research fellowships and research awards allow foreign scientists to come to Germany to work on their research project together with a host and collaborative partner. The foundation maintains a network of more than 36,000 ‘Humboldtians’ of all scientific disciplines in more than 140 countries – among them 51 Nobel Prize Laureates.
www.humboldt-foundation.de

Excellence Initiative
The Excellence Initiative aims to promote top-level research and to enhance the quality of German universities and research institutions in general, thus making Germany a more attractive research location.
www.dfg.de

Germany’s dual vocational training system is quite unique in international comparison.

German youth unemployment in 2014 was only about 2 per cent.
The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation, DFG) is the central self-governing organisation for science in Germany. It supports research projects, channelling funds primarily into institutes of higher education. It also promotes collaboration among researchers and advises parliaments and other authorities.

German industry is strongly engaged in research: more than 32,000 patent applications have been submitted to the European Patent Office in 2014. Siemens, Bosch and BASF, are among the world leaders in number of patents held. When it comes to patent registrations in the field of environmental protection, Germany leads the way worldwide, followed by the USA and Japan.

In 2012 Germany’s gross domestic expenditure on research and development (GERD) was EUR 79 billion, with more than two-thirds of research funding provided by industry. Higher education institutions account for 18 per cent of this spending and non-university research institutions invest 14 per cent of the R&D total.

“\textit{The collaboration between our two countries in terms of research and education is well established, but could be strengthened. Based on my experience, I strongly believe that greater financial support for bilateral research collaborations would foster innovative and productive outcomes.}”

Professor Dr Anja Schwarz
University of Potsdam

Fellowship meeting of the German Academic Exchange Service
Education

German schooling is based on nine years of basic education for all children. Attendance at all state schools is free of charge. When children reach the age of six, they begin attending primary school, generally for four years, before going on to one of a variety of secondary schools known as Hauptschule, Realschule, and Gymnasium. Academic standards and the balance of practical versus theoretical lessons differ among these types of secondary schools. There are also Gesamtschulen, in which all children of school age are taught in parallel classes, depending on their particular abilities. Children can easily move from one stream to another as they improve.

The Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany coordinates schooling, as each federal state has its own school laws.

Those wishing to study in Germany are able to choose among 383 higher education institutions spread throughout the country.

Private universities play a comparatively marginal role: 96 per cent of students attend public institutions which are essentially open to anyone with a school leaving qualification and are mostly free of charge.

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JOINT GERMAN-AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH GROUP – SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING AND LIFE CYCLE ENGINEERING

**VISION**

Products and services to ensure a high standard of living worldwide are linked to the use of natural resources, which are limited and are not evenly distributed. Future engineering solutions will have the potential to address global challenges by providing products, services and processes that take into account local capabilities and constraints to achieve an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable society.

**MISSION**

The joint research group contributes to this vision with one-stop, cradle-to-cradle development of technologies and knowledge in a multidisciplinary and international environment. The two cooperation partners have been leading research groups in these areas for many years and will engage in a collaborative research group in order to develop appropriate concepts to meet global challenges.

**THE COOPERATION PARTNERS**

· The University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney, Australia – a member of the ‘Group of Eight’ of the leading universities in Australia, and among the top 10 universities in the Asia-Pacific region.

· Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany, Leading university with technical orientation and the oldest university with technical background in Germany.

“As a master theses student from TU Braunschweig I was part of the Joint German Australian Research Group in Sydney for six months. The goal of my work was to analyze and assess regional criteria impacting on the Life Cycle Assessment’s (LCA) use stage of electric vehicles. The work in an international and helpful team made my stay a unique experience.”

Patrick, Master student, TU Braunschweig
Germany and Australia conduct a broad range of joint activities in science and education, at the government-to-government and institute-to-institute levels. However, our complementary interests – recognising Australia’s strength in basic research and Germany’s strength in research commercialisation, for example – create space for further cooperation.

Academic and scientific relations are particularly intensive at the university level. The number of partnership agreements between German and Australian higher education institutions has doubled over the past ten years, to more than 500. Australia and Germany have regular Joint Science and Technology Meetings to enhance science, technology and innovation collaboration between the countries as well as an Australia–Germany Science Circle forum.

A lively exchange between, universities, scientists and academics on both sides is promoted through scholarship programmes. To this end, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany’s national agency supporting international academic cooperation, runs its own Information Centre in Sydney, providing a first point of contact for those interested in studying or pursuing research in Germany. The Institut Ranke-Heinemann in Essen and Berlin represents Australian and New Zealand universities, schools and vocational academies in Germany.

Supported by the Australian Department of Education and Training, the Australia–Germany Joint Research Co-operation Scheme is a joint initiative of Universities Australia and the DAAD. The Australian Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Programme supports industry-led collaboration among researchers, international industry, businesses and the community, across all disciplines and industry sectors.
INCREASE COLLABORATION ON INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALISATION

22. A new joint advanced materials institute will be established in Australia to fund and manage research interactions between Australian and German industry and academia, and the German Fraunhofer Institute.

23. Relevant government agencies and research institutions in both countries will negotiate a major commercialisation best practice exchange, including intensified cooperation between Australian industry growth centres and German Leading Edge Clusters.

24. Australia’s Department of Industry and Science will coordinate a pilot innovation workshop on research linkages in Germany, including a study tour, in 2016 or 2017.

25. Both governments will consider establishing agreements with industry associations to organise and conduct road shows and partnership agreements with leading companies with the aim of connecting Australian and German businesses to supply chain and investment opportunities.

26. Both governments will explore options for matching regions in Australia and Germany that are transitioning out of extractive industries into advanced manufacturing, engineering and other end points.

27. Both governments will consider, where appropriate, opportunities for co-investment in and shared use of major international scale research projects.

28. Both governments will enhance the Australian presence on the ‘EURAXESS Researchers in Motion’ online platform, building on the existing promotion of Australian research collaboration opportunities in Europe.

EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE STUDENT EXCHANGES BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND GERMANY

29. The Group recommends that tertiary sectors in both countries consider options to increase the number of student exchanges at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including fixed fee and scholarship arrangements.

30. The German Government’s International Research Marketing Programme will focus on Australian students.

31. The Australian Embassy in Berlin will host a targeted networking event to promote the Australian Government’s Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships to German students.

32. Building on work done already by the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation, Australia and Germany will pursue further opportunities for student industry placements in German-based Australian companies and Australian-based German companies.

33. The Group recommends that a select number of places in the German Bundestag’s parliamentary internship programme and the Australian National University’s Australian National Internships Programme be opened to Australian and German students respectively.

34. An internet database, hosted on existing Australian and German websites, will be established listing all English-language degrees offered by German universities.

INTENSIFY ONGOING AND SUSTAINED CONVERSATIONS ON SCIENCE, RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

35. To complement opportunities offered by the German government and the Humboldt Foundation to Australians, the Australian government, Australian universities and research institutions, will explore options to strengthen and extend existing linkages with German universities and research organisations.

36. We propose to explore the establishment of an Australian Studies Centre in the Berlin-Brandenburg region, subject to finding a suitable funding arrangement.

37. The Australian research sector should consider establishing the position of Australian Research Coordinator in Germany, possibly based at the new Australian Studies Centre in Berlin-Brandenburg.

38. Australia will consider Lindau Foundation membership to further support its work fostering exchanges among scientists.

39. Germany’s Federal Ministry of Education and Research and Australia’s Department of Education and Training will commit to a 10–week exchange of officers.
BETTER UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER’S APPROACHES TO MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION
DIVERSITY, MIGRATION, INTEGRATION AND REFUGEES
DIVERSITY, MIGRATION, INTEGRATION AND REFUGEES

Global challenges

Migration remains a force for development and also presents some challenges.

Successful integration

The aim is to integrate into society those who are permanently and lawfully living in our countries and to grant them the related rights and responsibilities. Integration means living together as one society, not in separate worlds. Our societies should be characterised by respect, mutual trust, shared responsibility and a sense of shared community. Integration should ensure that immigrants have equal opportunities and the chance to participate in all areas, especially social, economic and cultural life.

Refugees

We can also see the consequences of terrorism, war and the resultant loss of future prospects, which are reflected in the large numbers of refugees. The refugee agency UNHCR reports almost 60 million refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers worldwide – more than at any time since the Second World War.

Dr Christoph Müller

German Ambassador to Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island, Vanuatu & Nauru

“To me, four years in Australia have been an eye-opener. So many things come to mind: the genuine warmth of mutual perceptions that shape all personal interactions; the incredible opportunities this vast country offers; the cutting-edge quality of science, and so much more – it’s time to build a real partnership on such unique foundations!”
Migration and integration in Australia

Australians come from a rich variety of cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds. Today, one in four Australians was born overseas or has at least one parent who was born overseas. Australians identify with about 300 ancestries and speak almost as many languages, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, and most of the world’s religions are practiced in Australia.

Until the 1970s, the majority of immigrants to Australia came from Europe. These days Australia receives many more immigrants from Asia, and since 1996 the number of immigrants from Africa and the Middle East has almost doubled. Even as Australia becomes increasingly multicultural, it remains a socially cohesive society.

Australia’s immigration policy welcomes people from all over the world and does not discriminate on racial, cultural or religious grounds.

The inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in Australian society is critical to Australia’s national identity. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have inhabited Australia for 60,000 years, and are the custodians of the oldest continuous living cultures in the world. Today, most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in metropolitan areas, and Indigenous cultural custom has adapted to now include both traditional and contemporary practices. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, the custodianship of traditional lands, cultural performance and custom continue to be maintained.

The Australian Government is committed to working in partnership with Indigenous people, families and communities to make sure children go to school every day, adults have jobs and communities are safe places to live. To achieve this, the Government is working closely with Indigenous Australians to ensure that better services and outcomes are delivered on the ground. The Australian Government is also committed to pursuing recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia’s Constitution.
Migration and integration in Germany

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Germany was the most popular immigration destination in the world after the USA in 2014.

In total, 7.2 million people with a foreign passport live in Germany. Around 16.4 million Germans have an immigration background. More than three quarters of immigrants come from another European country. The largest ethnic minority in Germany is formed by the almost three million people with Turkish roots (including 1.3 million German nationals). In 2014, 108,420 foreigners were naturalised.

Immigrants make an important contribution to social and economic development in Germany. German society is shaped by ethno-cultural diversity and a pluralism of lifestyles. Immigrants enrich the country with new perspectives and experiences.

Integration is a key task of migration policy. Immigrants should be able to become integrated and take advantage of the opportunities in Germany. To do so, people who come to Germany and intend to stay should learn the German language and acquire basic knowledge of our history and our legal system, particularly the significance of Germany’s free and democratic order, the party system, the federal structure, the welfare system, equal rights, tolerance and religious freedom.
Integration means feeling part of a community and developing a common understanding of the identity of the society. Germany is convinced that integration can work only as a two-way process. It requires that the majority of the population accepts immigrants and it requires that immigrants demonstrate willingness to learn and respect the rules of the host country and to take responsibility for their own integration.

The Federal Government wishes to enable further immigration for reasons that include countering the shortage of skilled labour resulting from demographic change. The number of Germans of working age will sink from 49.2 million to 38 million by 2060. Without immigration, the pressure on social welfare systems will increase.

The pension system is based on a contract between generations, in which the working population today pays into the system to finance the pensions of the generation that has reached retirement age. The growing need for skilled labour is increasingly bringing well-qualified migrants to Germany. The proportion of new immigrants with a university degree is above the average proportion of people with a university-level education in the German population.

Lucy Turnbull  
Honorary President of the Australian-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry

“Australia and Germany are two nations with strong links across business, science, technology and the arts. Germany is at the very heart of Europe, while Australia is located in the emerging Indo-Pacific. Both provide good reasons for us to strengthen and deepen our connections in order to improve our wider global understanding and engagement.”
Germany and Australia on migration and integration

Germany and Australia have different histories in terms of immigration. Australia is a classic country of immigration, while Germany has had periods of immigration as well as emigration. Germany in particular is facing great challenges because of the large number of people seeking asylum and protection – people who have fled war, persecution and hardship in their home countries. Germany must find ways to deal with this development in home affairs, working closely with its European partners within the framework of the EU and the foreign policy.

Refugees who have experienced the horrors of war and persecution should be given the chance to live in freedom and safety. Public authorities at the federal and municipal level, cities, churches, aid organisations, schools, associations and large numbers of volunteers are demonstrating an impressive commitment to making immigrants’ arrival in Germany easier and fostering their integration. Germany and Australia can conduct a particularly productive exchange of views because they have different traditions and experiences in this respect.
THE AUSTRALIA-GERMANY ADVISORY GROUP RECOMMENDS:

Migration and integration are major tasks for the future of both Germany and Australia. This is not merely a matter of safeguarding our countries’ innovative capacity and competitiveness – it also concerns the participation of each and every individual in society, the cohesion of our societies, and shared values in the face of growing diversity. The Group also recognised the importance of empowering women and girls in migration and integration policies.

43. The Australian and German governments will engage in a *best practice dialogue* on migration, integration, and attracting skilled workers.

44. To *intensify collaboration at the multilateral level*, Germany and Australia will consult on the topic of support for integration at a major UN migration conference scheduled to take place in mid-2016 and could plan a side event in the margins of the conference.

45. Both countries will *explore collaboration between respective cities and municipalities* (such as sister city arrangements) on approaches to the integration of migrant communities.

46. To enhance the dialogue on refugee policies, the *Bertelsmann Foundation* will invite Australian experts and stakeholders into its *Migration Strategy Group on Refugees and Asylum*.

47. Australia and Germany will continue to encourage new ways for their *private sectors* to support the integration of migrants, including through training institutions and employment services.

48. Noting the positive impact of *recognising professional skills* on successful integration, both countries will continue to encourage professional bodies to consider appropriate recognition of previous employment and will consider making training periods shorter for relevant migrants who already have demonstrated skills.

49. The Diversity Charter Association will invite interested *Australian companies to the 2016 Diversity Day in Berlin*. This day of action allows companies and institutions to publicly commit to diversity. Members of the Association with offices in both Germany and Australia, such as SAP and Daimler, could establish a *forum for diversity discussions* with other companies. An exchange on diversity could also be established between experts, for example through interested universities.
BUILD ON CURRENT PLATFORMS TO TAKE BILATERAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

EXTEND SPORTING COOPERATION BEYOND THE PLAYING FIELD

STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ON WINE MAKING
CULTURE, SPORT AND WINE MAKING
CULTURE, SPORT AND WINE MAKING

Global challenges

Culture – dialogue, exchange, debate, understanding
A country’s identity is defined by its culture, traditions and artistic expressions that have developed over generations.

Culture provides a unique and critical forum for fostering mutual understanding and relationship-building. It has a vital role to play in international relations. Alliances and friendship are just as likely to be forged along the lines of cultural understanding as they are on economic or geographic ones.

Sports – teamwork, fairness, respect, rules
The universal language of sport can be a powerful tool to promote peace, tolerance and understanding by bringing people together across boundaries, cultures and religions. Its intrinsic values such as teamwork, fairness, discipline, and respect for the opponent and the rules of the game are understood all over the world and can be harnessed to advance solidarity, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

With fairness, tolerance and peaceful competition as its backbone, sport is a popular way to promote international understanding.

Sports and culture in Australia

Culture
Australia has the oldest continuous cultures in the world – that of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – and at the same time has one of the most diverse cultures, being home to people from all corners of the globe. This permeates Australia’s culture and affects the way in which it expresses its identity, including in the creative arts.

Australia has many publicly run galleries, museums and performance spaces, from the World Heritage listed Opera House in Sydney and world-class cultural institutions in Canberra, to historical museums, galleries and arts precincts throughout regional Australia. The Australia Council for the Arts is the Australian Government’s arts funding and advisory body, and provides funding to artists and arts organisations.
Australia’s creative industries have built a global reputation for innovation and creativity; and they play an important role in the Australian economy. Australia’s performing arts organisations, musicians, dance and theatre performers display the energy and diversity of Australia’s arts and many collaborate with their international counterparts. Australia’s major performing arts organisations, including Opera Australia and the Australian Ballet, regularly undertake international tours.

**Sports**

Australians love sport. There are more than 140 national sporting organisations and thousands of local, regional and state sports bodies. Australians are active and have high participation rates in swimming, football, Australian rules football and netball. As spectators, Australians’ top sports are Australian rules football, horse racing, rugby league and motorsports.

Community-based sport across the nation underpins Australia’s remarkable sporting achievements at the elite level where many international champions have been produced in many sports. The nation unites when Australians play on the international stage. Sport is a powerful force in creating social harmony in a nation made up of people from so many different countries.

Successive governments have committed to supporting sport in Australia from grassroots to elite, increasing participation in physical and recreational activities to promote physical and mental health, staging world-class major sporting events, and using sport as a vehicle to address disadvantage and social inclusion challenges.
A fresh look at links between Australia and Germany

Sports and culture in Germany

Culture
Germany is often referred to as a ‘nation of poets and philosophers’. Today, Germany is a country of a vibrant mix of art, architecture, film, visual arts, dance theatre, orchestras and choirs, design and fashion. The rich cultural life is based on a historically grown cultural landscape in all of Germany’s regions and today’s Federal States and its major cities.

More than 94,000 books are published or reprinted each year. The Frankfurt Book Fair is the largest trade show worldwide. The Berlinale film festival screens up to 400 films in a range of categories. Some 100,000 theatre performances and 7,000 concerts are held in Germany each year, drawing audiences numbering some 35 million people, among them the Richard Wagner Festspiele in Bayreuth. Germany has around 820 theatres, music theatres, and opera houses. There are some 6,200 museums, 8,800 libraries, and 4,700 cinemas.

Aside from such famous and popular cultural highlights, there are also many exciting cultural discoveries to be made throughout the various regions of Germany. Such attractions might include an art gallery, a lively fringe theatre or cabaret scene, a bookshop or library with an interesting collection, a picturesque castle, or magnificent city architecture.

Some of the best-known of all the traditional festivals in Germany are the Oktoberfest in Munich and carnival in Cologne, Düsseldorf, and Mainz, where for a whole week the streets and bars are full of people in costumes.

Germany has embraced outside influences on the basis of its own traditions and has developed a new narrative. Young artists from immigrant backgrounds have found expressive means, both poetic and musical, to respond to the encounter and fusion of different cultural backgrounds.

Sports
Germany is a football nation and loves many others top-class sports disciplines, but grassroots sports also play an important role. Germany is a country of sports enthusiasts. In the Olympic Games all-time medals table, Germany ranks third behind the USA and the Russian Federation with 1,682 medals (as of 2014). Around 28 million people

Dr Nicholas Milton
General Music Director, State Opera House, Saarbrücken
Artistic Director and Chief Conductor, Canberra Symphony Orchestra

“Artistic expression in contemporary society opens our hearts, quiets our souls and enriches our humanity. The monumental vibrancy of the German cultural tradition united with the pulsating energy of the Australian spirit will miraculously transform and reinvigorate this already profound friendship.”
in Germany are members of one of more than 91,000 sports clubs. Alongside their sporting duties, the clubs also assume important social and inclusive roles. Particularly with regard to youth work and integration they reinforce values such as fair play, team spirit, and tolerance. Given the growing internationalisation of the population, the work done by sports clubs is becoming ever more important in socially integrating migrants.

Along with football, other popular sports are swimming, tennis, shooting, athletics, marathon running, European handball, volleyball and horseback riding.

**Germany and Australia together in sports and culture**

**Cultural relations**

Australia and Germany enjoy long-standing cultural and people-to-people links. Both countries are vibrant cultural centres, with Australia displaying a modern sensibility along with a unique Indigenous heritage, and Germany acknowledged as one of the world leaders in cultural innovation and excellence.

Germany promotes its culture in Australia primarily through the Goethe Institute and regular visits by musicians, artists and writers. An Australia Council for the Arts representative in Berlin works with the Australian Embassy to assist Australian artists entering and operating in the German market. A Cultural Agreement between Germany and Australia aimed at enhancing cultural and academic exchanges was signed in November 1997.

A significant number of Australian artists are based in Germany, working in music, the performing and visual arts, and literature, as well as arts management. They include prominent figures such as Simone Young, who was until recently General Manager and Musical Director of the Hamburg State Opera, Nicolas Milton, General Music Director of the State Opera House of Saarbrücken and Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and Barrie Kosky, Managing Director of the Komische Oper in Berlin. Australian major performing arts organisations regularly tour Germany, including in

**Barrie Kosky**

Artistic Director of Komische Oper Berlin

“As an Australian, I found a home away from home in Germany. For me as an artist, living in Berlin and its unique cultural landscape is like living in paradise. Although I travel and work all around the world, there is nothing quite like it. I only miss the salty Pacific Ocean from time to time…”

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**Football World Cup in Brazil 2014, world champion Germany after the finals**

**Cricket: Australia celebrate winning the Royal London One Day International Series**

**Performance by German group ‘Kraftwerk’ at the creative festival ‘Vivid Sydney’**
THE BAG-ALLIANCE: SUCCESSFUL GERMAN–AUSTRALIAN WINE GROWING

The Bordeaux–Adelaide-Geisenheim Alliance is a highly successful trans-national scientific cooperation between the Institute of Vine and Wine Sciences in Bordeaux, the Australian Wine Research Institute and the University of Geisenheim to enhance wine growing and the collaboration of the wine industries. In 2010 a ‘virtual institute’ was founded to serve as exchange hub for knowledge, data and people.

The institutions aim to achieve a number of strategic benefits under the alliance, including the following:

- Address global issues including the environment, water efficiency, climate change and wine in society, impact of wine on human health
- Capitalize on the strong synergies between the institutions

- Facilitate an increased international awareness of research programmes
- Enhance the speed of delivery of research outputs
- Have a vehicle for exchange of institution leaders, key personnel and students

Australia has more than 60 designated wine regions, well known are:

- Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Hunter Valley, Margaret River, Mornington Peninsula, McLaren Vale, Swan Valley, Yarra Valley

Germany has 13 designated wine regions:

- Ahr, Baden, Franconia, Hessische Bergstrasse, Middle Rhine, Mosel, Nahe, Pfalz, Rheingau, Rheinhessen, Saale-Unstrut, Saxony, Württemberg

recent years, leading companies such as the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland Ballet, and the Bangarra Dance Company. Recent high-profile events include a major exhibition of Australian Indigenous art in Cologne, the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale), which featured Australian films, and the Bangarra Dance Company’s German / Swiss tour. German dance legend Sasha Waltz’s ‘Dido & Aeneas’ was featured at the Sydney Festival in 2014 and Falk Richter’s coproduction ‘Complexity of Belonging’ with Anouk van Dijk premiered at the Melbourne Festival the same year. In 2016 Jette Steckels highly acclaimed production of ‘Woyzeck’ will be a highlight of the Sydney Festival.

Relations in sports
Australia and Germany share a rich sporting tradition and love of sport. They compete internationally at Olympic and Paralympic Games and across sports such as swimming, horse riding, football, cycling, and hockey. Australian and German sport is structured in a similar way. As with Australia, the Federal Government in Germany concentrates on high-performance sport, anti-doping matters, and sport activities of national interest, while the states have primary responsibility for promoting recreational sports for all.
THE AUSTRALIA-GERMANY ADVISORY GROUP RECOMMENDS:

Australia and Germany enjoy long-standing cultural and people-to-people links, reflected in the almost 900,000 Australians of German ancestry and the large number of German tourists who visit Australia each year (187,000 in 2014). Both countries are vibrant cultural centres, with Australia displaying a modern sensibility along with our unique Indigenous heritage, and Germany acknowledged as one of the world’s leading locations for innovation and excellence in cultural pursuits. The Group recognises the significant positive effect of cultural and sporting exchange in building mutual understanding and respect between societies. Both countries’ shared traditions in wine making were identified as a further area for culture and knowledge exchange.

BUILD ON CURRENT PLATFORMS TO TAKE BILATERAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

50. Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will designate Germany as the focus country of its cultural diplomacy programme, ‘Australia now’, in 2017. Within this programme, a diverse array of cultural exchange will occur, potentially including film retrospectives, photography exhibitions, crossover events, wine appreciation, institutional exchanges and collaboration between emerging and established professionals in both countries.

51. Australia will specify Germany as a priority country under the National Programme for Excellence in the Arts’ international touring and cultural diplomacy stream.

52. Australia and Germany will explore ways to develop and strengthen cooperative partnerships in the arts and cultural sectors, including through encouraging bilateral exchanges and collaboration between arts and cultural organisations.

53. The Canberra Symphony Orchestra and the Saarländisches State Orchestra will undertake a joint performance programme in Australia.

EXTEND SPORTING COOPERATION BEYOND THE PLAYING FIELD

54. A new Australia-Germany MOU on sporting cooperation will be negotiated, setting high-level direction for cooperation in women’s, men’s and youth sport.

55. The MOU between the German Football Association and Football Federation Australia will be renewed.

56. Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will support trilateral cooperation with Germany to develop football in South-East Asia.

57. Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will work with Football Federation Australia to develop a pilot sport-for-development programme with ASEAN, and will investigate German involvement in line with the renewed MOU.

58. Australia and Germany will explore options for friendly matches between the men’s football teams of Germany, Australia and selected major Asian national teams to be hosted in Asia in 2018/19.

STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ON WINE MAKING

59. Australia and Germany will explore opportunities to increase cooperation between wine industries through the exchange of knowledge, technology, and personnel.
Five themes guided the Group’s work, which aims to give a modern agenda to a long-standing relationship. These are:

A  INCREASE TRADE AND INVESTMENT
B  IMPROVE STRATEGIC DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATION
C  STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ON SCIENCE AND EDUCATION
D  EXCHANGE ON DIVERSITY, MIGRATION, INTEGRATION AND REFUGEES
E  ENHANCE CULTURAL AND SPORTING LINKS, AND COOPERATION ON WINE MAKING.

We, the members of the Australia-Germany Advisory Group, believe these recommendations form a strong basis to appropriately broaden, strengthen and deepen the Australia-Germany relationship over the coming five years. Diligent implementation will be crucial and should not be left solely to government. Businesses, industry groups, academic institutions, arts bodies and sporting groups alike have an important role. We look forward to witnessing the beneficial outcomes which will be achieved for people in both our countries and to the deeper friendship and cultural, economic and strategic understanding between our two countries as a result.

Bernd Leukert  
Member of the Executive Board and the Global Managing Board of SAP SE

“Australia is a key partner for Germany in the Asia-Pacific region; our economies and societies complement one another and it’s a privilege to help advance the relationship. At SAP, we see particular opportunities to support the trend towards Cloud Computing, promote STEM education and accelerate the development of Industry 4.0 in both countries, share Australia’s leadership in public sector innovation worldwide, and make the business case for diversity in the Digital Age.”
**German Members of the Advisory Group**

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Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, Member of the German Bundestag, Co-Chair of the Australia-Germany Advisory Group

**Volkmar Klein**  
Member of the German Bundestag, Chair of the German-Australian-New Zealand Parliamentary Group

**Bernd Leukert**  
Member of the Executive Board and the Global Managing Board of SAP SE

**Dr Christoph Müller**  
German Ambassador to Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu & Nauru

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**Professor Brian Schmidt**  
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**Lucy Turnbull**  
Honorary President of the German-Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry