

## **MEMBERSHIP POSITION: Australia**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **Official Name**

Commonwealth of Australia

#### **Capital**

Canberra

#### **Population**

23,607,300

#### **Major Languages**

English

#### **Major Religions**

Roman Catholic, Anglican

#### **Regional/Economic Organizational Membership**

Commonwealth of Nations

### **GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM**

Federal Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy

### **FOREIGN POLICY**

Australia's foreign policy focuses are mostly economic in nature. Australia favors free trade and is an extremely influential in Oceania. Australia has a large aid program budget along with a number personal that can be stationed in foreign nations.

### **ISSUES SUMMARY**

Australia normally votes with the United States and the United Kingdom. Australia supports the West on the major issues including nuclear non-proliferation, isolating Iran, and upholding many liberal values such as free speech. Australia, while supporting issues such as peace keeping, Australia is more likely to donate money, over personal. The exception is when the issue pertains to Oceania, where Australia takes the lead in such operations.

### **RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UN**

Australia is one of the founding members of the UN and feels that while the UN lacks power, it has influence in spades. Australia does support and participate in peacekeeping operations, but mostly financially except in the area of Oceania.

### **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER UNSC MEMBERS**

Australia typically votes with the United Kingdom and the United States and supports initiatives favored by them. Australia in addition, has close ties to other members of the Commonwealth and will support them on the Council. Australia generally leads the Oceanic nations and assists in Southeast Asia. Australia generally is neutral on issues with China and even supports it sometimes on economic issues.