
Sent: Saturday, 23 August 2008 17:48
To: White Paper
Subject: WWW Submission: 1. Strategy/International [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission: Thoughts on submission for the Defence White Paper.

Interesting that Education is NOT the biggest expenditure of the Federal government. It is Defence this year. So we consider waging war upon people in a distant land more important than educating our children.

The world is crying out for people to teach peace building skills

I heard of a course conducted by a young Indonesian teacher who developed a course for primary school students delivered to 8000 students in Bangdung. His main funding was from the Centre of Islam education in Melbourne.

The basic principle was 'Peace starts with me' The sessions included

Know and accept yourself

View others by removing prejudice

Ethnic diversity

Religions

Respect gender

Economy rich and poor gap

Gangs and exclusive groups

Diversity

Conflict

Avoid violence

Ask forgiveness and give forgiveness.

There are similar courses here in Australia begun by Stella Cornelius who has made 'conflict resolution' a household word.

Greg Mortenson, (www.gregmortenson.com ;) mountain climber and author, of 'Three cups of tea' has given his life to build schools in Pakistan. He feels that if we built schools in Afghanistan which educated boys and girls, this would be an alternative to waging war.

Could Australia lead the way in Peace building to the world? Instead of buying arms could we not invest in people with knowledge to care and dialogue instead of fight?

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

I agree to my submission being quoted in the Community Consultation Report