**Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN)**

***IPAN Patrons: Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe AO & Kellie Tranter******Lawyer & Human Rights Activist***

***Briefing document for organisations/groups/individuals (‘Work in Progress’)***

**‘Make Peace a Priority’ Campaign Proposal**

**Join us today as an Active Partner for Peace in Australia and across our region**

**Initiating Organisation:**

The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) is a grassroots network of organisations from around Australia – community, faith and peace groups, trade unions – and concerned individuals aiming to build public dialogue and pressure for change to a truly independent foreign policy for Australia – one in which our government plays a positive role in solving international conflicts peacefully.

**Our Campaign Vision:**

To elevate peace as a national priority so that it informs policy development in Australia, to achieve peace domestically and internationally.

**Rationale for Campaign:**

* Peace is essential if we are going to meet the future challenges that Australia faces within our country and region.
* The campaign proposal is to provide focus and additional support for Australia’s contribution to international agencies working towards peace and social justice.
* Along with our diverse population, we have the opportunity to promote harmony at the domestic level and model ways to strengthen global systems for peace and the pursuit of international harmony.
* Working for systemic change in our society is essential to achieving and maintaining long term peace.
* This initiative will complement all existing campaigns working for peace.
* This campaign vision is long-term – but we must start now.

**Campaign Aims**

* This campaign seeks to influence the political environment in Australia so that peace becomes a priority focus and a lens which informs policy decisions.
* This campaign aims to create a unifying vision which reflects the wishes of the Australian people for peaceful coexistence.

**We seek to work with like-minded organisations, like yours!**

***Join us now as a Partner for Peace.***

**Initial Steps:**

* Seek (equal) partners to join us in working towards this Vision, with a view to synchronising approaches
* Refine Vision and confirm Goals and Objectives of Campaign and develop overarching campaign strategy
* Conduct a Professional Survey to create a baseline regarding support by Australians for a ‘peace agenda’
* Federal Election – Campaign to bring a focus on Peace
* Development and Promotion of a Parliamentary Pledge on Peace (seek Federal, State/

Territory politicians to sign)

* Create a ‘talking point’ resource for all members – e.g. include a debunking section; background on talking heads when they should be called out
* Create a campaign webpage/website/social media group/pages

**Possible Parliamentary Pledge: ‘Peace is essential if we are going to meet the future challenges that Australia faces – I will support initiatives to advance peace.’**

**Examples of Steps that Government could take**

*These possibilities to be discussed with campaign partners [find the evidence and precedents in other places]*

* Create a Ministry for Peace to promote Australia’s efforts and provide focus to engage with the international frameworks that already exist.
* Create a new branch within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), with new funding, to pursue diplomatic efforts at the individual country level, through regional bodies, and via the UN.  This branch to:
* Provide additional funding to research bodies to research avenues and methods to pursue peace.
* Actively support existing international bodies, or foster their creation, to pursue peace.
* Increase resources for diplomacy and convene regional summits to pursue a peace agenda.