

Australia to allow foreign citizens into its army

6th June 2024



Australia will soon allow non-Australians into its army. People from countries such as the UK, Canada and New Zealand can apply to join the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Australia is having problems getting people to sign up for its army.

The government hopes that opening the army up to people from other countries will solve its recruitment problem. The ADF currently has a shortage of around 4,400 workers. From July, New Zealanders who are permanent residents in Australia can apply to join. Next year, those from the UK, US and Canada will have their chance. Australia's Defence Minister, Richard Marles, said it was possible that in the future, people from more countries could join.

Mr Marles said his country was changing its recruitment policy for security reasons. He said: "The Australian Government has chosen to grow the Australian Defence Force because it is essential to meet the nation's security challenges through the next decade and beyond." A Defence Ministry spokesperson said: "We're being bold in order to grow the ADF. Recruiting from a wider pool of people will help ensure [the ADF] reflects the full diversity of Australia, and is able to draw on the talents of [all] of Australian society." Opposition Foreign Minister Simon Birmingham disagreed with the policy. He said it showed government failure. He said: "We should be seeing more Australians with the confidence to sign up."

Sources: defence.gov.au / bbc.com / abc.net.au

Writing

It's OK for non-nationals to join another country's army. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Australia / army / problems / recruitment / shortage / workers / chance / in the future / security / challenges / next decade / diversity / talents / society / failure / confidence

True / False

- 1) British people can join Australia's army, but New Zealanders can't. T / F
- 2) It's easy for Australia to recruit people into its army. T / F
- 3) The Australian Defence Force needs more than 4,500 new workers. T / F
- 4) Canadians will be able to join the Australian Defence Force next year. T / F
- 5) Australia is allowing non-nationals to join its army for security reasons. T / F
- 6) The government is looking more than 10 years ahead. T / F
- 7) Australia wants an army that shows the nation's diversity. T / F
- 8) The opposition Foreign Minister said Australians didn't need to sign up. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. allow | a. opportunity |
| 2. such as | b. important |
| 3. solve | c. citizens |
| 4. residents | d. like |
| 5. chance | e. skills |
| 6. chosen | f. supply |
| 7. essential | g. opted |
| 8. pool | h. let |
| 9. talents | i. self-belief |
| 10. confidence | j. answer |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What security issues are there in your country?
- c) What do you think of your country's army?
- d) Should armies be as diverse as possible?
- e) What do you think of army uniforms?
- f) How is technology changing the role of armies?
- g) What do you think cyber wars will look like?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Australia's leader?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Australia will soon allow non- | a. pool of people |
| 2. getting people to sign | b. future |
| 3. solve its recruitment | c. up for its army |
| 4. permanent | d. policy |
| 5. in the | e. diversity of Australia |
| 6. changing its recruitment | f. Australians into its army |
| 7. meet the nation's security | g. failure |
| 8. Recruiting from a wider | h. residents in Australia |
| 9. reflects the full | i. challenges |
| 10. He said it showed government | j. problem |

Discussion – Student B

- What a country's army be multi-national?
- Would you think about a career in the army?
- Why do you think Australia is having problems recruiting staff?
- Does every country in the world need an army?
- What would a world be like without armies?
- What's the army in your country like?
- Why does Australia need an army?
- How can Australia recruit more people?

Spelling

- New Zealand can pplay to join
- The mgneeorvt hopes that
- solve its erirunmtcet problem
- The ADF currently has a tageosrh
- eempantnr residents
- Richard Marles said it was sloiesbp
- yetsciur reasons
- because it is tseiaesln
- hegsnclela through the next decade
- reflects the full irysevidt of Australia
- He said it showed government aieflur
- with the iefccdonen to sign up

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. j	4. c	5. a
6. g	7. b	8. f	9. e	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Soldier

You think a soldier is the job someone from another country should never do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs are OK for non-nationals to do. Also, tell the others which is the best of these for a non-national (and why): spy, judge or immigration officer.

Role B – Spy

You think a spy is the job someone from another country should never do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs are OK for non-nationals to do. Also, tell the others which is the best of these for a non-national (and why): soldier, judge or immigration officer.

Role C – Judge

You think a judge is the job someone from another country should never do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs are OK for non-nationals to do. Also, tell the others which is the best of these for a non-national (and why): spy, soldier or immigration officer.

Role D – Immigration Officer

You think an immigration officer is the job someone from another country should never do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their jobs are OK for non-nationals to do. Also, tell the others which is the best of these for a non-national (and why): spy, judge or soldier.

Speaking – Non-nationals

Rank these with your partner. Put the jobs which people from other countries should not do at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| • Soldier | • Police officer |
| • Nurse | • President |
| • Spy | • Football player |
| • Judge | • Immigration officer |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.