AUSTRALIA’S ROLE

Government officials from various agencies represent Australia at the OECD in Paris, where they contribute to the organisation’s work. Australia currently chairs the Health, Statistics and Fiscal Affairs committees.

Australia takes an interest in a wide range of OECD issues—economic analysis, trade and structural reform; taxation, employment and social policy; health, education, and the environment; digital and cyber issues; science and technology; and development assistance.

The OECD’s research and recommendations are useful tools in Australia’s domestic policy-making process, helping to inform major decisions. OECD work has guided current Australian Government policies and programs in areas such as employment, pensions and education.

Good policy recommendations, backed up by experience and research, are also invaluable to developing economies. Australia is a strong supporter of OECD’s increasing involvement with the ‘enhanced engagement countries’ (see map) as well as the countries of South East Asia. The participation and views of these countries is important because of their increasing weight in the global economy.

OECD QUICK STATS

- Membership: 34 developed countries
- Established in 1961 and comprises approximately 2,500 staff
- Members make up 61.6 per cent of global trade flows
- Members make up 68.7 per cent of global GDP
- Populations of member countries make up 17.9 per cent of the world’s people

For more information visit www.dfat.gov.au/oecd
OECD Membership Status

Full members
Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States

Accession
Russia (membership pending)

Enhanced engagement countries
Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, South Africa

The OECD is established in Paris.

Australia joins the Development Assistance Committee.

Australia joins the OECD as its 23rd member.

Australia’s Justice Michael Kirby plays a key role in the OECD’s adoption of new privacy guidelines on the collection and management of personal information by governments and businesses.

Australia becomes a founding member of the Financial Action Task Force—an organisation to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Australia holds the presidency of the Financial Action Task Force. The OECD Ministerial Council reaffirms “the importance of co-operative global action to combat money laundering.”

Prime Minister Keating addresses a large gathering of ministers and NGOs at the OECD–Australia conference on cities and the new global economy.

Australia’s national competition policy inspires the OECD’s competition assessment toolkit, now used in 14 languages worldwide.

Australia is heavily involved in establishing the Working Party on Small and Medium Enterprises and Entrepreneurship.

Australia signs the Seoul Declaration for the Internet Economy, which recognises the increasingly critical role of the internet.

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The OECD celebrates its 50th anniversary.