



INFORMATION KIT

ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIA

The peak public affairs representative of the Armenian-Australian community

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RECOGNITION



Domestic Recognition

There are two Australian states that currently recognise the Armenian Genocide. In 1997, the Parliament of New South Wales, the largest state in Australia, passed a motion recognising the Armenian Genocide and called on the Australian Federal Government to do the same. Following on, in March 2009, the Parliament of South Australia passed a motion recognising the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek Genocide and condemning its deniers at the Federal level. The New South Wales government followed in 2013 by recognising the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek Genocide.

Additionally, there are also two local governments in New South Wales that have adopted resolutions recognising the Armenian Genocide. On April 14, 2015, the City of Ryde unanimously adopted a motion dedicated to the centenary of the Armenian Genocide and called on the Federal government of Australia to recognise and condemn all genocides perpetrated by the Turkish government. On May 11, 2015, the City of Willoughby passed a similar motion recognising the Armenian Genocide and called on all Australians to advance this to the Federal level of government. In 2010, Fairfield City Council passed a motion recognising the Assyrian Genocide and on August 7, 2010, a monument commemorating the genocide of 750,000 Assyrians in World War One was unveiled. There are also five Armenian Genocide memorials around the country.

In 2018, two House of Representatives debates saw members of Parliament from both major parties calling on the Australian government to recognise the Armenian Genocide, including recognising eyewitness testimonies of ANZAC POWs and Australia's first major international humanitarian relief effort - which was to aid survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

A number of local councils, political parties including the Australian Greens and Centre Alliance, several senior and youth state branches of the major political parties, as well as influential advocacy groups including the Australian Christian Lobby and the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies have also recognised the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek Genocides.



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"I believe the Armenian genocide was one of the greatest crimes against humanity... it is important that we recognise the Armenian genocide for what it was."

- SCOTT MORRISON MP (2011)

NOTICE OF MOTION

MEMBER FOR NORTH SYDNEY

I give notice that on the next day of sitting I shall move that this House:

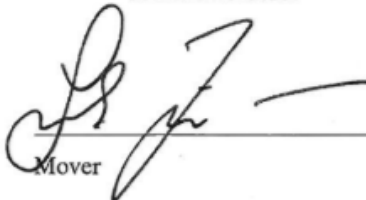
That this House notes that:

- a. The first major international humanitarian effort of the Commonwealth of Australia following Federation was to mount relief efforts for orphans and other survivors of the Armenian genocide;
- b. Australia's relief efforts were supported by Armenian relief committees established across the nation;
- c. The Australian government made available the government steamer *Hobson's Bay*, to support those humanitarian relief efforts; and
- d. An Australasian Armenian Relief Committee was established by Reverend James Cressell in 1922 to coordinate Australian relief efforts.

(2) Recognises:

- a. the extraordinary humanitarian efforts of the then newly formed Commonwealth of Australia for the orphans and other survivors of the Armenian genocide, as well as the other Christian minorities of the Ottoman Empire including Greeks and Assyrians, as one of Australia's first major international humanitarian campaigns, which set a proud tradition of international humanitarian efforts by Australia;
- b. the tireless efforts of all those Australian individuals and organisations involved in this historic humanitarian effort mobilising a broad spectrum of political, civic and religious leaders, including James Cresswell, Edith Glanville, Jessie Webb, Stanley Savage, Isobel Hutton and Cecilia John, as documented in the University of New South Wales Press publication *Armenia Australia & The Great War* authored by Professor Peter Stanley and Vicken Babkenian; and
- c. the special bond between Australia and Armenia forged by the humanitarian efforts of the newly formed Australian nation to support the Armenian people during one of the darkest chapters of modern human history.

- (3) Calls on the Australian government to ensure that this important part of Australia's history and the role of individual Australians supporting the victims of the Armenian genocide is properly commemorated.


Mover (signed)


(signed)

Seconder, Member for Bennington

International Recognition

There are several legislative bodies and countries which recognise the Armenian Genocide.



United States

The United States Congress recognised the Armenian Genocide through resolutions in both the House of Representatives in October 29, 2019 (H.Res.296) and the Senate in December 12, 2019 (S.Res.150).



This is in addition to 49 U.S states out of 50 which have also recognised the Armenian Genocide and called for the United States as a nation to recognise the systematic extermination of 1.5 million Armenians as Genocide.

In April 2021, President Joe Biden formally recognised the Armenian Genocide following Congress recognition in 2019, ensuring the United States joined over 30 global nations in recognising 1915 as Genocide.



State/Regional Recognition



Andean Parliament (2017)

(A legislative body composed of representatives of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile)



Iran

Tehran regional government of Iran



Mexico

State of Michoacán (2019)



Spain

Aragon (2015), Balearic Islands (2010), Basque Country (2007), Catalonia (2010), Navarre (2014)



United Kingdom

Scotland, North Ireland and Wales (2010), City of Derby (2018)