

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee

Department of the Senate

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

For consideration by the committee.

Australian support for Ukraine, with particular reference to:

(a) whether the support is timely, coordinated and comprehensive;

We have shown support for Ukraine during its war with Russia through various means, including diplomatic statements, sanctions, and humanitarian aid. The support has been timely, coordinated, and comprehensive to a certain extent.

1. Timely Support: We have been quick to condemn Russia's actions in Ukraine and have consistently called for an end to the conflict. The Australian government has issued statements in response to key developments in the conflict, such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2014 and the escalation of hostilities in 2022.

2. Coordinated Efforts: We have worked closely with our allies, particularly the United States and European countries, to coordinate our response to the conflict in Ukraine. An Australian Embassy in Ukraine would further benefit our efforts in this respect.

3. Comprehensive Support: We have provided comprehensive support to Ukraine through a range of measures. This includes imposing sanctions on Russian individuals and entities, providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine, and offering political and moral support to the Ukrainian government.

(b) whether support is appropriately coordinated on a whole-of-government and whole-of-country basis;

We have shown strong support for Ukraine in response to the ongoing conflict with Russia. The Australian government has condemned Russia's actions in Ukraine and has implemented a range of measures to support Ukraine, including sanctions on Russian individuals and entities, humanitarian assistance, and military aid.

In terms of coordination, the Australian government has taken a whole-of-government approach to its support for Ukraine. This means that multiple government departments and agencies are

involved in coordinating and implementing Australia's response to the conflict. This includes the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Defence, and other relevant agencies.

In addition to government support, there has been a strong outpouring of support for Ukraine from the Australian public. This includes fundraising efforts, demonstrations, and other forms of solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

(c) efforts to hold Russia to account, including by addressing mis- and dis-information in Australian public debate and the region; and

We have shown strong support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression. The Australian government has condemned Russia's actions in Ukraine and has joined international efforts to hold Russia to account for its violations of international law.

One way Australia is addressing the issue of misinformation and disinformation in relation to Ukraine is by actively countering false narratives and propaganda. The Australian government has been working to raise awareness about the situation in Ukraine and to provide accurate information to the public.

We have also been working with international partners to address misinformation and disinformation in the region. This includes supporting initiatives to promote media literacy, fact-checking, and independent journalism in Ukraine and other countries affected by Russian disinformation campaigns.

In addition, We have imposed sanctions on Russia in response to its actions in Ukraine, including targeting individuals and entities involved in the conflict. These sanctions are part of Australia's efforts to hold Russia accountable for its aggression and to support Ukraine in its efforts to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

(d) any related matters.

Regarding our financial support to date:

As of 2021, Australia's support for Ukraine in terms of financial aid and military assistance is relatively scant compared to other countries on a GDP basis. While we have provided some financial assistance and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, our contributions are not as significant as those of larger economies such as the United States, European Union countries, and Canada.

For example, the United States has been one of the largest supporters of Ukraine, providing billions of dollars in financial aid, military assistance, and economic support since the conflict with Russia began in 2014. Similarly, European Union countries have collectively provided substantial financial aid and economic support to Ukraine, as well as sanctions against Russia in response to its actions in Ukraine.

On a GDP basis, Australia's support for Ukraine is pitifully small compared to these larger economies.

In summary, we must take more action to further support our ally during the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

- 1. Providing **increased** humanitarian aid to Ukraine, including food, medical supplies, and shelter for displaced persons.*
- 2. Imposing **additional** sanctions on Russia to further isolate and pressure the Russian government to end its aggression.*
- 3. Offering **further** military assistance to Ukraine, such as training, **equipment** (aircraft/tanks/hawkei/bushmasters/drones), and intelligence sharing.*
- 4. Working with international partners to coordinate a unified response to the crisis and ensure that Russia faces consequences for its actions.*
- 5. Opening an **Australian Embassy in Kyiv** and providing ongoing diplomatic support to Ukraine, including advocating for its sovereignty and territorial integrity in international forums.*
- 6. Offering support for Ukrainian refugees, including resettlement programs and assistance with integration into Australian society.*
- 7. Continuing to speak out against Russian aggression and standing in solidarity with Ukraine and its people.*

By taking these actions and demonstrating strong support for Ukraine, we can show our commitment to upholding democracy and freedom, and standing with our ally in their time of need.

Sincerely,
An honest, hard working Australian.