# STRENGTH IN DEFENCE, ECONOMY, FAMILY



Australia is entering one of the most uncertain periods in its history. The world feels more dangerous than ever, and our region increasingly volatile. The question is no longer if we must prepare, but how. Some say that to reach the promised land, one must first endure the wilderness. For many Australians, it feels as though we have been wandering in that wilderness for far too long.

#### **Learning from Israel**

South Australia offers a telling example. Along its coastline, an ecological crisis is unfolding: a massive outbreak of toxic algae. The problem has baffled both State and Federal Governments. Israel's marine biologists are some of the smartest in the world. They would have the problem solved in no time.

Israel's expertise doesn't stop there. On defence, Australia invests around 2 per cent of its GDP, while Israel spends more than four times that at 9 per cent. On economic growth, Israel outpaces Australia's forecasts: Australia expects growth of 1.7 per cent in 2025, while Israel projects 3.4 per cent—rising to 5.5 per cent the following year. And on family formation, Israel's birth rate nearly doubles ours: 2.9 compared to Australia's 1.5.





Australia and Israel have a lot in common harking back more than a hundred years. October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1917, for example, was a pivotal moment in the Middle East Campaign of World War I, where the Australian Light Horse Brigade captured the heavily fortified Ottoman stronghold of Beersheba. The capture of Beersheba sounded the death knell for the Ottoman Empire's 400-year old occupation of Jerusalem and surrounding territory. As a result, the Battle of Beersheba formed a significant historical link between Australia and Israel.

### The Role of Families in a Free Society

The late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once wrote:

"To defend a country you need an army. But to defend a free society you need families, schools and an educational system in which ideals are passed on from one generation to the next, and never lost, or despaired of, or obscured."

Israel has made that philosophy central to its survival. Its culture and way of life are fiercely protected through strong family values and a determination to safeguard tradition. Can Australia say the same?

# **Defence and Dependence**

It is often said that the first duty of any government is the defence of the nation. Yet, despite having three times Israel's population, 400 times its landmass, and a GDP three times the size, Australia remains heavily reliant on the United States for its defence. Israel, by contrast, has built self-reliance into its DNA.

Former Prime Minister Bob Hawke once described Israel as "an inspiration, a small, lone democracy in the Middle East." Today, Israel finds itself on the front line, defending not only its borders but also Western civilisation itself from enemies intent on its destruction.

# **Standing Shoulder to Shoulder**

Australia's future strength may well depend on how willing we are to learn from allies like Israel—on defence, on the economy, and on the family. These three pillars are not just abstract ideals; they are the foundations on which nations thrive or fall.

The time has come for Australia to decide: will we continue to wander in the wilderness, or will we stand shoulder to shoulder with those who know what it takes to survive—and to prosper? If you would like to join us – and thousands of other like-minded Australians – **please go to www.australianfamilyparty.org.au and click Join.** 



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