

# France and Australia

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## A stronger political dialogue

- January 2012: Signature of the first strategic partnership between France and Australia to strengthen bilateral dialogue
- November 2014: Official visit of the President of the French Republic to Australia - a historic first
- April 2016: State visit of the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia to Paris
- May 2016: Visit of the French Prime Minister to Australia
- 14 July 2016: Australia, guest country of honour at the Bastille Day celebrations
- March 2017: Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development – Signature of the statement on enhancing the strategic partnership

## Focus on economic ties

### France

600 French companies are working in Australia including almost all (35) of the companies listed on France's CAC 40 stock market index. They employ 60,000 people and generate €18.4 billion.

Australia chose a French company, DCNS, to build its future submarines (programme estimated at €34 billion).

### Australia

France's eighth biggest trade surplus (€1.7 billion on average over the last ten years; €1.4 billion in 2016).

300 Australian companies have invested in France, where they employ around 40,000 people.

## Dynamic cultural and scientific cooperation

### Dynamic academic and scientific cooperation focused on excellence and innovation:

- France is Australia's third ranking European partner when it comes to research;
- The network of French researchers – Australia French Association for Research and Innovation (AFRAN) – has nearly 600 members. It spearheads action and development of bilateral scientific cooperation;

- All the major French research bodies are present: French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), National Institute for Agronomic Research (INRA), French Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) and Institut Pasteur;
- French university communities are growing: Paris Sciences Lettres, Sorbonne Paris Cité, Paris Saclay, Université de Toulouse.

### **Increase in French and bilingual language programmes:**

- French, the leading European language taught;
- With 250,000 primary and secondary school students and 8,000 university students, it is the third most studied foreign language in Australia;
- A growing network of schools and French and English bilingual sections: 5 accredited or government-regulated schools; 4 bear the the LabelFrancEducation label, new bilingual sections are opening soon in Adelaide;
- 30 Alliances Françaises.

### **An important outlet for French cultural and creative industries:**

- “So Frenchy, So Chic”, a festival featuring today's popular French music with more than 3 million followers on social media;
- A strong presence of our cultural heritage in Australian museums (Degas, Versailles exhibitions);
- A French film festival that is growing in popularity with more than 168,000 film goers in 2016.

### **France is one of Australia’s favourite destinations**

1.3 million Australian tourists visited France (out of a total population of 23 million Australians) in 2016. Australia is therefore France’s tenth biggest tourist market.

### **A shared memory**

More than 400,000 Australians fought in the First World War, 10% of the population at the time. More than 60,000 died on the battlefield. This episode is considered to be a founding act of the Australian nation.

**SOURCE: CUSTOMS FIGURES - YEARLY AVERAGE OVER 10 YEARS.**  
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