What is CICD?

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F. J. Riley &
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The Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament (CICD) is Victoria’s oldest permanent peace organisation.

Formed in 1959, CICD has consistently worked around the relevant peace and disarmament issues of the day. Foremost amongst its concerns has been its support for general and complete disarmament to be brought about under international control.

In the early sixties CICD was instrumental in campaigns calling for a nuclear free Southern Hemisphere and a total ban on nuclear testing. In later years it has campaigned for the removal of foreign military bases from Australia and a halt to uranium mining.

Throughout it has conducted educational campaigns and provided the community with resources on the threat of nuclear war, the state of the nuclear arms race and the need for disarmament.

CICD also figured prominently in the opposition to Australia’s involvement in the Vietnam War. Its concern with peace extends to support for the right of independence and self-determination for all nations. In particular this includes support for national liberation movements.

CICD is a voluntary, non-party political organisation. It is supported financially by its membership, which includes forty affiliated trade unions and community groups, and by self-funding activities.

At a national level, CICD is affiliated to the Australian Peace Liaison Committee; while in Victoria it was a founding body of the recently formed coalition — People for Nuclear Disarmament.

For A World Free Of Nuclear Weapons
Current interests.

In the current period the campaign for nuclear disarmament is central to our activity. We seek:

★ to provide relevant material alerting people to the dangers of nuclear war.
★ To promote an international climate favourable to disarmament and to support constructive proposals towards this end.
★ to bring about an Australian contribution to international disarmament.

This includes:
- developing a campaign for the removal of foreign military bases from Australia
- supporting efforts aimed at halting the mining and export of uranium.
★ to further regional efforts aimed at securing a nuclear-free Pacific zone and Indian Ocean zone of peace.
★ to develop support for a non-aligned foreign policy for Australia.

What can I do?

★ Become a member of CICD
★ Encourage your Union or community group to become an affiliate
★ Offer to help in one of our current campaigns
★ Volunteer to help with work in our office
★ Start up a local peace group in your area
★ Arrange for a film/speaker to come to your school/workplace/community.

low does CICD work?

CICD is a membership organisation. At its Annual General Meeting, a Committee and Executive is elected with the responsibility of running the organisation during its yearly term.
CICD maintains an office and several staff at its centre in the city. The office serves multiple purposes as a shop, resource centre, campaign and liaison office, and administrative centre.

We encourage the active involvement of our membership in CICD’s work. The office, in particular, benefits greatly from the assistance of volunteers.

We engage in many different forms of activity including conferences, demonstrations, public meetings, educational programs, speaking tours and film screenings.

Our library resource material includes several films available for public hire. Over thirty schools and as many groups made use of films/speakers from CICD last year. Part of our resources each year go towards the production, purchasing or distribution of relevant films and other campaign aids.

CICD publishes a regular monthly newsletter and an information/discussion journal, as well as irregular publications. A weekly radio program also goes to air every Sunday morning on 3CR.

Peace movement.

Currently there are many groups in Australia and overseas working in the area of anti-war and anti-nuclear activity.

Internationally, the CICD has no affiliations but does maintain ongoing contact with a whole range of groups by way of correspondence, exchange of publications, and by sending or receiving overseas delegations for tours/conferences.

At a national level, CICD was a founding member of the Australian Peace Liaison Committee (APLC) in 1974. The APLC has affiliates from peace organisations in most states and is a forum for co-ordinating anti-war activity between its co-operating bodies. The APLC also works co-operatively with the national anti-nuclear body, the Coalition for a Nuclear Free Australia.

In Victoria, the CICD was a founding member of the People’s Int’l Nuclear Disarmament in 1981. We continue to give active support in its role as the coalition grouping bringing together a wide range of interested peace, anti-nuclear, church, trade union and community organisations. CICD also participates in other forums including the Stop Omega Campaign, Nuclear Free Pacific Committee, the Trojan Horse Sinai Campaign and El Salvador Committee.