



**International Physicians**  
for the Prevention of Nuclear War



## **Quotes from IPPNW physician leaders re joint statement on planned Australian nuclear submarines**

**21 Sep 2021**

[Dr Sue Wareham OAM, President, Medical Association for Prevention of War \(Australia\):](#)

“This important statement of concern from health professional colleagues in Australia, the US and the UK indicates the far-reaching implications of the deal that has been struck. Although the Australian government claims that there is no nuclear weapons agenda, the use of weapons grade uranium in the submarines will lead to questions being asked about our motives, just as questions are asked of Iran’s uranium enrichment program. The nuclear weapons proliferation potential will be significant. If our government wants to provide real assurance of Australian intentions, then signing and ratifying the nuclear weapons ban treaty would be by far the best way to do this.

Equally, there are huge questions and problems with this ramping up of preparations for war with China. We should be doing absolutely everything possible, including restoring the art of diplomacy, to avoid such a catastrophe, not running blindly into it.”

[Dr Elisabeth McElderry, International Councillor, Medact \(UK\):](#)

"Resources are needed both at home and worldwide to improve health and care services, and to reduce the drivers of conflict, displacement and disease. It is very disappointing that the United Kingdom continues to promote armaments exports, in this case with added nuclear dangers, which goes in the opposite direction of the UK Government statement on peacebuilding, in May this year, that "investing in conflict prevention is the right thing to do".

[Dr David E. Drake, D.O., President, Physicians for Social Responsibility \(USA\):](#)

"Let's not forget that 'On the Beach' depicted the end of the world, focused on Australia. Instead of ramping up a new cold war, we must cooperate to decrease tensions and work toward eliminating all weapons of mass destruction, while we still can."