



Survival Matters: The Five Big Questions

Discussions For Groups Of Up To Five People For An Hour

What is the problem?

A group of ten interlinked problems is threatening the long-term future of human societies everywhere. At present, the Australian Government is half-heartedly and ineffectively taking action to reduce one of them: **global warming**. The others that are being largely ignored by politicians everywhere are **human population growth, food insecurity, ecosystem destruction, depletion of resources, the threat of nuclear war, uncontrolled technology, global poisoning, pandemic diseases and, above all, the mass self-delusion that the impact of these things will not affect us until far into the future and are not worthy of our concern.**

Watch this video: <https://vimeo.com/user5670026/review/315852437/d94087b164>

What can we do about it?

Around the globe, we've seen the power of individual people acting together to make our world a better place. We will be reaching out to people all around Australia asking for their responses to the Five Big Questions, so we can present them to our politicians and get a commitment to urgent action on these ten threats to human survival.

Help us to show our politicians that we feel strongly about these threats, and want them to act on them urgently by:

- 1. listening to and sharing our 'Survival Matters' podcasts with as many people as you can**
- 2. getting involved in a small group discussion on the Five Big Questions, and provide us with your responses**
- 3. supporting our small crowdfunding campaign, which will start on 29 April.** This campaign will provide us with the funds to reach as many Australians as possible and show politicians that we care about our future, and the future of those who will come after us.

Who is Australia21?

Australia21 is a non-partisan, non-profit think tank for the public good. We are alarmed that these interacting matters are being ignored by political leaders nearly everywhere and that if we don't act in a globally coordinated and cooperative way, very quickly, one or all of these threats are likely to prove catastrophic. Read more at australia21.org.au. In collaboration with academics at the Australian National University, Australia21 has also developed a website: humansforsurvival.org, which explores the evidence about the threats we all face.

How to approach to the Five Big Questions on the next page

1. Ask up to four people you know – family, friends, work colleagues and others – to set aside an hour to meet with you to think and discuss together what you all hope Australian leaders will do about a set of problems that are facing humans everywhere.
2. Decide who will lead the group discussion, to make sure that everyone has a chance to have their say.
3. Begin by asking everyone to read this instruction sheet and the Five Big Questions on the next page. Ask each person to give their initial reaction to the threats (see 'What is the problem' above) and the questions.
4. At the end of your discussion, ask each person to write down their own response to each of the Five Big Questions on the next page.
5. Send your responses, and the responses of each person in your group to :

email: survivalmatters@australia21.org.au

post: Australia21
PO Box 3244
Weston ACT 2611

We will then enter your responses into our national database, and present a summary of them to our politicians so we can get a commitment to urgent action on these ten threats to human survival.

Your personal information will NOT be provided to any other party; it will be kept secure by Australia21.

The Five Big Questions

1. In your opinion, should the Australian government be acting urgently to mitigate all 10 risks?
2. What are the dangers of not acting urgently? And what are the benefits of prompt action?
3. Should every Australian government make a formal commitment to human survival as the overarching goal of all policy?
4. Should Australia reconsider and endorse the UN treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons? Why or why not?

(Background: In 2017, following weeks of intensive negotiations, two-thirds of the world's nations voted to adopt a landmark UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The treaty was not supported by the major nuclear nations, and although Australians were prominent in the campaign, which led to the award of the Nobel peace prize, the Australian government did not participate, apparently in deference to the major nuclear nations who saw such a treaty as a retrograde step. Many nations are now moving to endorse the treaty).

5. What role can young people play in addressing these threats?

Your Name:

Age (please circle): 12-15 years
15-18 years
19-25 years
26-30 years
31-40 years
41-50 years
51-60 years
60 years +

Postcode:

Signature:

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