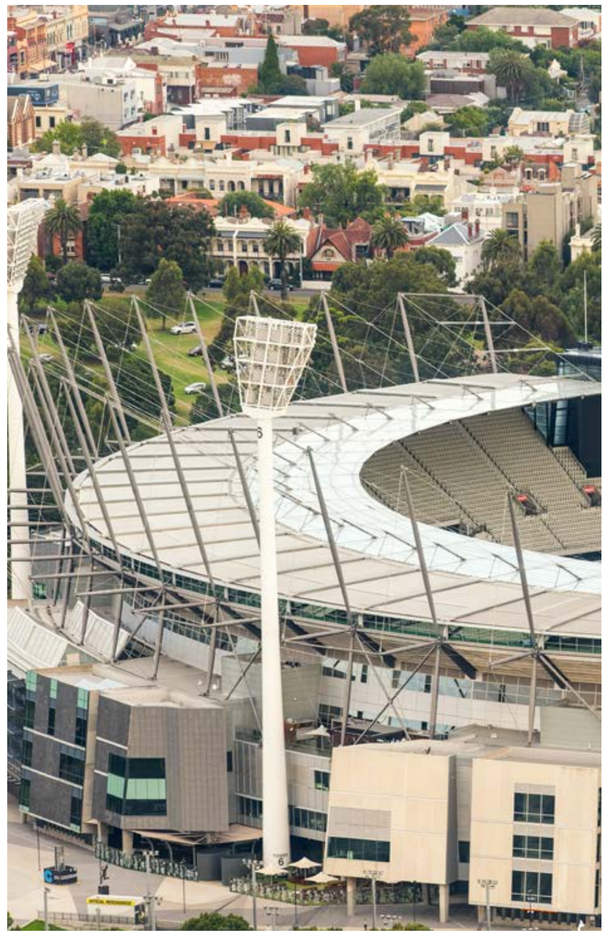
Along with outreach to its massive district, the consular section processes more than 20,000 nonimmigrant visas each year, primarily for third-country nationals. With the Melbourne metropolitan area expected to surpass Sydney within the next decade, CG Melbourne is preparing for a drastic increase in demand for its already popular services.

"This post has changed markedly since I arrived here six years ago," said Gabrielle Connellan, cultural affairs specialist. "We used to not even have an officer in the public affairs section, and we've expanded from two people to seven. We now have a youth affairs specialist, which is the only position of its kind in the country, and we also have the Marine force rotation, which has really changed the way that we view part of a district that used to be sleepy and a little bit quiet for us."

Since 2012, U.S. Marines have conducted six-month rotations in Darwin as part of a bilateral effort to bolster regional security and improve interoperability between the nations' armed forces, an initiative President Obama announced in Australia in 2011 with a goal of establishing a rotational presence of up to 2,500 Marines. The enduring military alliance between the United States and Australia goes back to World War I when Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) troops fought valiantly in support of the Allied forces during the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign. Australian troops were also integral partners during numerous World War II battles and even hosted the 1st Marine Division at MCG after the Marines' fierce and costly Guadalcanal siege. The kindness and generosity of Australians during the Marines' recuperation period left a lasting impression and paved the way for a partnership that continues to this day.

"Since World War I, the United States has never gone into battle, any battle, anywhere, without Australia at our side. Our values are the same. We both cherish freedom and are willing to fight for it. That has been proven in



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