DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE BATTLEFRONT AND THE HOMEFRONT

Students often do not understand the meaning of the term ‘homefront’ in relation to the ‘battlefront’. When introducing the subject of Australia’s involvement in the Pacific war, define and discuss these two key terms.

**Battlefront**

A line of battle (fighting) in a war – any location at which opposing military forces are engaged in combat.

In World War II there were three theatres of war (general areas in which fighting took place) – Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific. Within the theatres of war there were battlefronts such as the Kokoda Track in New Guinea, at which Australian and American servicemen were fighting the Japanese.

**Homefront**

In Australia, civilians supported the war effort by manufacturing munitions, growing food for soldiers, making uniforms and performing a variety of other duties. When we discuss the homefront we are remembering what life was like for ordinary Australians during the war, away from the battlefront.

Below are two photographs of men and women working for the war effort on the homefront during World War II.


![Circa 1944. Women’s activities in wartime Australia covered nearly every aspect of industrial life. A woman crane driver at an inland commonwealth ordnance factory operates a crane sixty feet above the factory floor. This factory was the first in Australia to employ women crane drivers, and most of the machinery in the factory was set in place by them. Australian War Memorial, http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/044517](http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/044517)

More photographs of the Australian homefront during World War II are located at: