

Labor



MEDIA RELEASE | **WE'LL PUT
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**THE HON RICHARD MARLES MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
MEMBER FOR CORIO**

AUSTRALIA'S INCREASED TRAINING SUPPORT TO THE PHILIPPINES

Labor supports the Government's agreement with the Philippines to expand our assistance helping build the Armed Forces of the Philippines' long-term capability to tackle terrorism.

Stability and security in our region is in our national interest, just as it's in our national interest to make sure Islamic State-inspired groups do not gain a foothold in our region.

Combatting terror is an ever-evolving challenge, and we must respond appropriately. The Philippines has been very clear it wants to tackle this itself, and it's important we, and other regional partners, support it to defeat violent Islamist extremist groups that threaten our collective security.

Australia continues to play an important role combatting Islamic State through Operation Okra – the ADF's contribution to coalition operations in Iraq and Syria. It's equally important we support our neighbours to prevent this threat from emerging in our own region as Islamic State is defeated in the Middle East.

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