



Terri butler MP
Federal Member for Griffith

MEDIA RELEASE

**NEW MILITARY SPENDING DATA A REMINDER OF THE
IMPORTANCE OF PEACE**

Terri Butler MP has welcomed today's news of a fall in world military spending, for the third year running.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute today released new military expenditure data for 2014, showing that the world's military spend had decreased slightly.

Releasing the data to coincide with the Global Day of Action on Military Spending, SIPRI stated world military expenditure is now estimated at roughly \$1.8 trillion.

"Though the slight decrease overall is welcome, the total spend of \$1.8 trillion shows the cost of insecurity and conflict," Terri Butler said.

"Imagine the uses to which \$1.8 trillion could be put in a more peaceful world," she said.

"Australia should continue in efforts to make the world a more peaceful and safer place," she said.

"Labor has always sought that our nation engage internationally, including through the UN, to contribute to making the world more secure. The former Labor government showed great leadership in working to secure a place on the Security Council," she said.

"To make the world more secure, it's important that nations and organisations work to reduce poverty, globally.

"Reducing multinational tax evasion domestically is important for Australia's bottom line. Globally, reducing tax evasion is important so that developing countries get their fair share.

"And foreign aid, by reducing poverty, also contributes to security. The Abbott government should reverse its \$11 billion in cuts to foreign aid.

"Meaningful action to reduce poverty and increase peace and stability would also provide safer and more certain environments in which to do business, contributing to economic growth," she said.

ENDS

+

MONDAY, 13 APRIL 2015

MEDIA CONTACT ANGUS SUTHERLAND: 0433 295 099