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- [Home](#)
- [People](#)
- [POLICY](#)
- [News](#)
- [DONATE](#)
- [eHerald](#)
- [LaborTV](#)

- [Donate to Labor](#)
- [Mobile Web](#)
- [RSS Feed](#)
- [Help](#)

Site Search

Info

- [About Labor](#)
- [Contact Labor](#)
- [Join Labor](#)

Platform

- [National Platform and Constitution](#)

Network

- [State & Territory Branches](#)
- [Labor eHerald](#)
- [Chifley Research Centre](#)
- [Labor Women's Network](#)
- [ALP International Projects](#)
- [National Indigenous Labor Network](#)
- [Australian Voters Abroad](#)
- [Other Links](#)

Feedback

- [Have Your Say](#)

[Home](#) > [News](#) > Asia Pacific Centre For Civil-Military Cooperation

Asia Pacific Centre For Civil-Military Cooperation

Text size:  

Media Statement - 13th November 2007



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Federal Labor will set up a new \$5.1 million Asia Pacific Centre for Civil-Military Cooperation (APC-CIMIC) in Queanbeyan.

Recent experience with the breakdown in law and order in fragile states such as East Timor and the Solomon Islands demonstrates the need for a concerted long-term response to stabilisation, reconstruction and peace-building in our region.

That is why Federal Labor is establishing an Asia-Pacific Centre for Civil-Military Cooperation (APC-CIMC).

We need to streamline coordination between security, economic, emergency management,

institution-building and non-government organisations to help avoid continuing instability and revolving door military deployments.

Federal Labor's proposed Centre will:

- Better coordinate existing resources to act as a focal point for Government agencies in the coordination of stabilisation, reconstruction and peace-building missions;
- Coordinate training for such missions between different agencies, involving participants from all concerned sectors (including NGOs);
- Conduct governance training for public officials from states in the Asia Pacific region to bolster governance **before** conflict situations emerge and strengthen peace building operations after they do;
- Liaise with international partner institutions such as the UN Peace Building Commission, Japanese *Terakoya*, United States Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization and UK Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit, to enhance cooperation and mutual reinforcement;
- Liaise with other relevant emergency management bodies, both national and international, on disaster management and co-ordination;
- Develop doctrine, interagency exchange and training on disaster and crisis management, coordination and preparation; and
- Contribute to the development of international doctrine and policy on stabilisation and peace building missions;
- Facilitate the development of an integrated interagency approach to campaign planning for complex peace and stabilisation operations;
- Enhance conflict prevention by the coordination of cooperation, engagement and development programs to identify and target fault lines in vulnerable States;

The location of the Centre in Queanbeyan will have many advantages.

Placed near the Australian Defence Force Headquarters, Joint Operations Centre at Bungendore, the Australian Federal Police International Deployment Group facility at Majura, the NGO peak body ACFID, AusAID, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Department of Defence - Queanbeyan is an ideal place.

The residents of Queanbeyan will also benefit from the creation of an internationally significant institution in their local area. A large number of talented people from around Australia and the Asia Pacific region will make use of the Centre's facilities.

The Asia Pacific Centre for Civil Military Cooperation is a central part of Labor's commitment to regional stability and development.

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