



**THE HON RICHARD MARLES
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
MEMBER FOR CORIO**

AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN BLACKHAWKS

Labor supports the Government's announcement that Australia has agreed to supply a specific contribution to the NATO-led RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION, in the form of a small team of Blackhawk helicopter qualified instructors, maintainers, and operational planning advisers. The team will support the Afghan National Air Force to establish its UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter capability.

The approximately 20 personnel who will form this team will join the ADF's existing train, advise and assist mission, which is currently providing support and expertise to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces.

Support for Australia's continuing role in the Middle East – including both Iraq and Afghanistan – has been bipartisan. Australia has a direct national interest in ensuring Afghanistan is not a safe haven for terrorists.

Together with our international partners, we need to continue to build the capacity of Iraq and Afghanistan to deal with the challenges that they face.

THURSDAY, 12 JULY 2018

Authorised by Noah Carroll, ALP, Canberra.