



**National President of the  
Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans' Association Inc.**

**\*\* MEDIA RELEASE \*\***

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**Government Aims to Erode Further Funding from the Veteran's Community**

The Gillard Labor Government plans to further reduce government funding to the veteran's community with revised budget documents confirming that it has miscalculated the number of personnel in uniform by a staggering 2,500 over the next three years.

As the shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and personnel, Mr Stuart Robert, said this latest issue further illustrated the inability of the Minister for Defence, Stephen Smith, to manage his own department and the security of Australia.

As Mr Stuart Robert stated When the Defence Minister doesn't know how many men and women will be in uniform in any given year that presents as a serious problem not only for the security of our nation but future funding for Ex-Service Organisations (ESO). A 2,500 difference in military numbers also has significant financial implications for the government who will look to further reduce funding in defence.

How can the Veteran's Community and Ex-Service Organisations expect to improve its attitude towards the reduction in funding when the responsibility and accountability of the current Minister sets such a poor example by ducking an issue such as this?

As the shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and personnel, Mr Stuart Robert stated one thing is clear, the problems with Defence are only going to continue until such a time Minister Smith starts taking responsibility for his own department.

Mr Thomas has expressed concerns that veteran's in the community and those that are currently serving are the people that will suffer mostly as seen in the most recent DFRDB Bill and through the reduction in BEST funding.

**Media enquires: Allan Thomas – 0432 099 270**