

Thursday 11 June, 6.00pm

Public forum

# Australia's defence: where are we headed?



Since mid-April, we have seen the release of the Defence Community Consultation report; closely followed by Australia's Defence White Paper and by a Federal Budget with increased defence spending. Is Australia addressing conflict, or exacerbating it? Does the White Paper signal a change in our relations with major powers, and with our neighbours? With community views largely dismissed by the consultation panel, what are the opportunities to be heard?

Three speakers will lead the discussion, and invite your comments and insights.

## Opening the discussion

**The Defence White Paper and defence budget: the big picture changes.**

Professor Richard Tanter: Director, Nautilus Institute, RMIT University

**Nuclear weapons: is Australia serious about their abolition?**

Dimity Hawkins: International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

**Australia's military and police in the Pacific: money well spent?**

Nic Maclellan: Journalist and researcher on Pacific island issues

Facilitated by MAPW Executive Officer Nancy Atkin, who will comment briefly on the flawed "community consultation"

Hosted by the Nautilus Institute, RMIT University; and the Medical Association for Prevention of War

**Time:** 6.00pm – 7.30pm, Thursday 11 June 2009

**Venue:** Level 2 conference room, Alan Gilbert Building, corner of Grattan and Barry Streets, Carlton. Take lift to Level 2.

**Details:** All welcome! Queries **8344 1637**.