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*PRESS RELEASE*

*KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS– TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2015*

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The Institute For Regional Security is to be officially launched by the Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs tomorrow night at the National Gallery of Australia.

Minister Bishop will also give the IFRS **inaugural address on Regional Stability and Prosperity** to an audience of over 180 senior national security officials and professionals.

Minister Bishop will speak to the future security and prosperity of our nation and its impact beyond our borders.

Previously known as the Kokoda Foundation, the official launch of the IFRS marks an exciting step in its future. The new name reflects the work it does in promoting regional stability and prosperity both here in Australia and in the region.

The IFRS has taken a different approach to other Australian security related think tanks by focusing on the longer term issues (rather than reacting to current affairs), in undertaking research projects engaging directly with the national security community;  
by actively developing the next generation of strategic thinkers and leaders;  
and through collaborative strategic dialogues with regional partners and allies provide a conduit to leaders and policy makers.

**Media is invited to attend to hear the Minister's keynote address scheduled to commence at approx. 8.40pm. Please advise the IFRS office to facilitate access to the venue.**

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**Background:**

The Institute for Regional Security has two equally important objectives. The first is to explore ideas and policy options that enable Australia and our regional partners to exploit the opportunities that will arise in the future security environment and to respond to the challenges that will surely accompany the changes we will see.

The second objective is to promote the development of the next generation of strategic thinkers. Better strategic policy requires more incisive strategic thinking, less vague generalisations, more useful insight to guide strategic decisions. The activities of the Institute encourage this incisiveness and insight.

Strategic thinking is a difficult, demanding and intellectually challenging endeavour but is enormously satisfying in leading to real outcomes that affect the prosperity and stability of Australia and our region. Strategic thinking in the security domain also covers a wide variety of subject matter and is extremely complex with many linkages and interconnections.

The Future Strategic Leaders' Program assists the next generation of strategic thinkers to gain a deeper understanding and knowledge of the broader security environment, and to help them develop the skills and expertise necessary to contribute to policy and planning. A very important feature of the program is to create a community of young people interested and concerned about national security who will carry this network of relationships through their careers.

[www.regionalsecurity.org.au](http://www.regionalsecurity.org.au)