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Submission to the Inquiry into the Treaty on Singapore Military Training

It is beneficial for Australia to be engaged with our neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region. This includes having forming relationships in a range of areas, including in defence. Forming these relationships enables Australia to contribute to multilateral efforts to uphold peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. The Singapore indicates that Australia is open to deepening our engagement with the country, which I believe is a positive step. There are many threats to our peace and security. This includes the aggression from China in asserting their territorial claims and refusing to recognise international law on maritime matters (seen with their militarisation of the South China and Sea and associated territorial claims). It could also be seen with climate change, and the projected increase in natural disasters and rising sea levels, which will place greater pressure on countries to respond. Australia has indicated a willingness to deepen our engagement with our Asia-Pacific neighbours with the Pacific Step-Up program. Singapore may not technically be in the Pacific as such, but is part of the broader region I am speaking about. Australia will need to strengthen our involvement in the region and our relationships with our neighbours to respond to existing and emerging threats to regional peace and security. I commend the Australian Government on for their work in developing this treaty.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind Regards,

Benjamin Cronshaw.