



**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP
MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION
AND BORDER PROTECTION**

Ref No: MC15-003546

Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Jensen

Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2015 concerning Petition 1025/1510 on revoking the Australian citizenship of Australians who participate in terrorism, submitted to the Standing Committee on Petitions by the Member for Cowan, Mr Luke Simpkins MP. I appreciate the time you have taken to bring this matter to my attention. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Australian Government is acting to give the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection powers to strip Australian citizenship from dual nationals who engage in terrorism.

By updating the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007*, we will bring our laws closer to those of the United Kingdom and other countries which are facing similar threats from home-grown extremism.

Our security agencies are currently managing over 400 high priority counter-terrorism investigations. 26 Australians have been convicted of major terrorism offences and close to 260 more are either fighting in Syria/Iraq or are supporting the conflict from Australia. A significant number of these Australians have dual citizenship.

Similar laws currently apply to dual nationals should they fight for a country Australia is at war with. Updating this law will enable us to strip citizenship from dual nationals fighting or supporting ISIL, or Daesh, as well as so-called 'lone wolves' at home.

The new law will not leave anyone stateless and will include judicial review.

The Government has also launched a national conversation to improve understanding of the privileges and responsibilities of Australian citizenship and to seek the public's views on further possible measures, including the suspension of certain privileges of citizenship for those involved in serious terrorism.

A consultation paper on Australian citizenship and further information on the submissions process can be found at: <http://www.citizenship.gov.au>.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

PETER DUTTON