



New inquiry into Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill 2014

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security today commenced an intensive inquiry into the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill 2014.

The Bill follows the National Security Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2014 as the Government's second tranche of legislation in response to the current national security threat. The Bill is intended to enhance the capability of agencies to protect Australian communities from the threat of returning foreign fighters and individuals within Australia supporting foreign conflicts.

In referring the Bill to the Committee, the Attorney-General said that the Bill's measures would:

- create new offences for 'advocating terrorism' and for entering or remaining in a 'declared area';
- broaden the criteria and streamline the process for the listing of terrorist organisations;
- extend instances in which a control order may be sought; extend the sunset provisions of the preventative detention order and control order regimes; and include a sunset clause for the 'declared area' offence;
- provide certain law enforcement agencies with additional tools needed to investigate, arrest and prosecute those supporting foreign conflicts;
- limit the means of travel for foreign fighting or support for foreign fighters; and
- strengthen protections at Australia's borders.

Due to the need for Parliament to consider the Bill in the week of 20 October 2014, the Committee is conducting an intensive inquiry and will report by 17 October 2014.

The Committee Chair, Mr Dan Tehan MP, welcomed the referral of the Bill. 'The Committee's inquiry will provide a crucial forum for publicly scrutinising the Bill prior to its debate in the broader Parliament,' Mr Tehan said.

Members of the public are invited to make submissions to the inquiry. Submissions are requested by **12.00pm on Friday, 3 October 2014.**

Due to the short timeframes, any individuals or organisations who wish to provide a submission are asked to notify the secretariat by emailing pjcis@aph.gov.au prior to submitting. Hearings will be conducted on Friday, 3 October and Wednesday, 8 October 2014.

Further information about the inquiry, can be accessed via the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pjcis>. The Bill and Explanatory Memorandum can be accessed via http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation.

For media comment, please contact the Office of the Chair, Dan Tehan MP, on 6277 4393 (Parliament House) or 03 5572 1100 (Electorate).

For inquiry information, please contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 2360 or email pjcis@aph.gov.au.