



Public hearings to be held on 'foreign fighters' legislation

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security will hold two public hearings this week for its inquiry into the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill 2014.

The Committee will firstly hear from the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security at a hearing on Thursday morning. The Committee will then hold a full day hearing on Friday with government agencies and leading organisations in public law, human rights and civil liberties. Organisations to be represented include the Australian Human Rights Commission, the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law, and the Law Council of Australia.

The Bill is intended to enhance the capability of agencies to protect the Australian community from the threat of returning foreign fighters and individuals within Australia supporting terrorist organisations.

'The Committee is pleased to have the opportunity to scrutinise this important piece of national security legislation, particularly in the context of the current heightened security environment', said Committee Chair, Dan Tehan MP.

Details of the hearings are as follows:

Thursday 2 October 2014 – 8.00am to 8.45am

Committee Room 1R5, Parliament House, Canberra

Due to the early morning start, public access will not be available for this hearing. However, the hearing will be broadcast live (audio only) at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/live>

Friday 3 October 2014 – 8.00am to 3.15pm

Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

Special arrangements have been made to enable public access for the start of this hearing, which will also be broadcast live.

The Committee is conducting an intensive inquiry and will report by 17 October 2014.

Members of the public are invited to make submissions to the inquiry by 12.00pm on Friday, 3 October 2014. Due to the short timeframes, individuals or organisations who wish to provide a submission are asked to notify the secretariat by emailing pjcis@aph.gov.au prior to submitting.

Further information about the inquiry, including full programs for the hearings, 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.