



## Intelligence Committee to discuss international counter-terrorism measures

Members of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) and the Executive Director of the Australian Counter Terrorism Centre are travelling to the United Kingdom, France and the United States to engage in high level international discussions on counter terrorism measures.

Special approval was given from the Speaker and the President of the Senate for three members of the Committee to undertake the delegation. The delegation will meet with intelligence and security agencies in London, Paris and Washington, as well as counterpart intelligence oversight authorities. The delegation will also speak with internet and social media companies in San Francisco.

In particular the delegation will be discussing:

- Cooperative approaches to countering violent extremism, and in particular the radicalisation of individuals through social media,
- Measures introduced by other nations to revoke or suspend the citizenship of dual nationals engaged in terrorism related activities,
- International approaches for the protection of classified intelligence in warrants and affidavits, and
- Oversight of intelligence and security agencies.

The Chair of the Committee, Mr Dan Tehan MP, will lead the delegation. He explained that 'Currently the PJCIS is conducting an inquiry into the Australian Citizenship Amendment (Allegiance to Australia) Bill 2015. This Bill specifies circumstances in which an Australian dual national is taken to have lost their Australian citizenship. Several other countries have enacted similar measures and the delegation will be consulting on the process and impact of these measures.'

Mr Tehan also commented that 'In light of the expanded oversight role of the PJCIS, it is vital for the committee to engage internationally and consider counter-terrorism in its global context. Social media means the radicalisation of youth can happen on our doorstep. Daesh is sending out almost 100,000 pieces of extremist propaganda a day glorifying terrorist violence. Curbing this violent extremism and ensuring our agencies have the capability to respond quickly and effectively is an enormous challenge.'

He added, 'Further to this, as the powers of our intelligence and enforcement agencies have necessarily increased in response to the terror threat, so our oversight mechanisms become more critical. The delegation will be considering counterpart oversight committees and how they perform their duties.'

Further information about the committee can be accessed via the website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pjcis>.

**For media comment**, please contact the Office of the Chair, Dan Tehan MP, on 03 5572 1100 or 0408 564 232 (Electorate).

**For inquiry information**, please contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 2360 or email [pjcis@aph.gov.au](mailto:pjcis@aph.gov.au).