



Public hearings on Citizenship Amendment (Allegiance to Australia) Bill

Parliament's Intelligence and Security committee will hold public hearings this Tuesday and Wednesday for its inquiry into the Citizenship Amendment (Allegiance to Australia) Bill 2015.

A wide range of government and non-government organisations will be represented at the hearings as well as the Commonwealth Ombudsman and Australian Human Rights Commission.

The Bill seeks to implement powers for the cessation of the Australian citizenship of dual citizens in the following circumstances:

- if a person acts inconsistently with their allegiance to Australia by engaging in specified terrorist-related conduct (proposed section 33AA)
- if a person fights for, or is in the service of, a declared terrorist organisation (proposed section 35)
- if a person is convicted of a specified terrorism related offence as prescribed in the *Criminal Code* (proposed section 35A).

The amendments will apply to a person regardless of how they became an Australian citizen, but will only apply to dual citizens who would not be rendered stateless if their Australian citizenship were to cease.

The Chair of the Committee, Mr Dan Tehan MP, said "The Committee will consider the appropriateness of the regime proposed in the Bill and its application to countering threats to national security. In doing so, the question of retrospective application of proposed section 35A will be examined. The Committee will also focus on safeguards and accountability mechanisms."

Details of the hearings are as follows:

Tuesday, 4 August 2015 – 2.00pm to 6.20pm
Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

Wednesday, 5 August 2015 – 8.00am to 2.40pm
Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

The Committee has received 42 written submissions to date from a range of sources and has been asked to report by 21 August 2015.

Further information about the inquiry, including programs for the two hearings and copies of submissions, can be accessed via the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pjicis>. 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 02 6277 4393.

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