



## New Parliamentary inquiry into Citizenship Bill

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security has commenced an inquiry into the Australian Citizenship Amendment (Allegiance to Australia) Bill 2015.

The Bill seeks to implement the Government's response to the threat of dual-Australian citizens engaged in terrorism.

The Bill contains measures that will specify circumstances in which an Australian dual national is taken to have lost their Australian citizenship.

In addition, the Committee has been requested to consider whether proposed section 35A of the Bill should apply retrospectively to prior convictions for terrorism-related offences.

The Chair of the Committee, Dan Tehan MP, said "The Committee will examine whether the measures contained in this Bill will effectively deal with dual nationals involved in terrorism."

"In doing so, the Committee will consider whether the powers to cease a person's citizenship have appropriate safeguards in place, including how the Minister's discretion might be applied and available avenues of review."

"Retrospectivity is used very rarely in legislation. Accordingly, the Committee will seek evidence from a range of experts, before considering whether these proposed laws should apply retrospectively to dual nationals who have previously been convicted of terrorism-related offences," Mr Tehan said.

The Committee invites submissions to the inquiry. Please email the secretariat at [citizenship.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:citizenship.reps@aph.gov.au) by Friday, 10 July 2015, if you intend to make a submission. Submissions are requested by no later than **Friday, 17 July 2015**.

Public hearings will be held on dates to be advised.

The Committee has been asked to report by 21 August 2015.

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](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](mailto:pjcis@aph.gov.au).