



New Parliamentary inquiry – Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment Bill

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security has commenced an inquiry into the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 2015.

The Bill contains measures intended to:

- allow a control order to be imposed on persons 14 years and older, with appropriate safeguards;
- require a person wearing a tracking device under a control order to take steps to ensure the tracking device is operational;
- simplify the monitoring of individuals subject to control orders;
- provide greater protection to sensitive information in control order proceedings;
- expand the defence for receiving funds for legal advice and legal representation where there is a question as to whether the organisation is a terrorist organisation;
- clarify the test for obtaining a preventative detention order;
- prohibit the advocating of genocide;
- authorise the disclosure of taxation information to an Australian government agency to prevent, detect, disrupt or investigate conduct related to a security matter;
- enable ASIO to provide security assessments directly to states and territories, and
- update the definition of ‘advocacy’ in the *Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995* in line with the *Criminal Code* definition of ‘advocates’.

The Chair of the Committee, Dan Tehan MP, said “The Committee welcomes the opportunity to again review important changes to Australia’s national security and counter-terrorism legislation.

“This will be the sixth piece of national security legislation to be examined by the PJCIS during the current Parliament, and the third that seeks to amend the control order regime. This reflects the changing threat environment being faced by the Australian community.”

The Committee invites submissions to the inquiry. Please email the secretariat at pjcis@aph.gov.au by Friday, 20 November 2015, if you intend to make a submission. Submissions are requested by no later than **Thursday, 10 December 2015**.

Public hearings will be held in December. The Committee has been asked to report by 15 February 2016.

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.

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security is also required under the *Intelligence Services Act 2001* to review the control order regime as a whole by 7 March 2018.

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.