



Joint Standing Committee on Migration

Chair: Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP

Deputy Chair: Mrs Louise Markus MP

Countering Violent Extremism program on agenda

The Federal Migration Committee will take evidence from Attorney-General's Department on the Government's Countering Violent Extremism program in Canberra on Wednesday 14 March.

As part of the Government's National Action Plan on Social Cohesion, Harmony and Security, \$9.7 million has been allocated over four years to fund community activities intended to reduce the risk of radicalisation and domestic terrorism.

Committee chair Ms Maria Vamvakinou said the committee is interested in whether the program is the best way to address the risk factors associated with exposure to extremist and violent ideologies.

"Since 2010, the Countering Violent Extremism program has provided \$2.8 million to 29 community organisations through its Youth Mentoring and Building Community Resilience grants programs," Ms Vamvakinou said.

"The committee is interested in how the Taskforce interacts with settled and emerging migrant communities that have high rates of social and economic disadvantage."

The Member for Calwell said that inclusion through education, work, sport and cultural activity is critical to ensuring people feel safe and have a sense of belonging in their new home.

"Disengagement from mainstream politics and social exclusion from mainstream society make people more open to the influence of all forms of extremist ideology that can now so easily be propagated via the internet. While some migrant groups may be more susceptible this is not an issue specific to migrant groups but for Australian society as a whole."

The Public Hearing will commence at 10.45 am in Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House.

Proceedings will be audio broadcast on
http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

The full program and other information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's website www.aph.gov.au/mig or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4560.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Media comment: Committee Chair Ms Maria Vamvakinou (03) 9309 3655 or

Mob 0417 541 465 (Basem Abdo)

Background: Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2300