



Intelligence Committee reports on Australia's terrorism laws

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security tabled its report on Australia's terrorism laws in Parliament today.

The Committee has recommended amendments to terrorism offences and better communication and coordination with the Arab and Muslim Australians. The Committee endorses most of the recommendations of the Sheller Committee Report, tabled in June this year.

In a bi-partisan consensus report the Intelligence Committee has called for the appointment of an Independent Reviewer to provide integrated and ongoing oversight of Australia's specialist terrorism law regime.

The Parliament has passed over thirty pieces of legislation since the terrorist attack of 9/11 to prevent terrorist activity. The terrorism law regime differs from normal criminal law in several important ways.

Australia has a comprehensive legal framework for deal with terrorist crimes. But, to date, Parliamentary oversight has been sporadic and fragmented.

For media comment:

Please contact the Chairman, **Mr David Jull, MP** on **02 6277 2182 (Parliament House)** or **07 5580 0355 (Electorate Office)**.

For contact outside work hours phone the House of Representatives media adviser **Andrew Dawson** on **02 6277 2063** or mobile **0401 143 724**.

For more information, contact Jane Hearn on **02 6277 4650** or visit the PJCIS's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pjcis/securityleg/index.htm>