

Joint Parliamentary Committee on ASIO, ASIS and DSD

Government Response to Committee's Recommendations

Review of the listing of six terrorist organisations (tabled 7 March 2005)

Recommendation 1:

The Committee recommends that a comprehensive programme, that takes account of relevant community groups, be conducted in relation to any listing of an organisation as a terrorist organisation.

Response:

It is not practicable to undertake broader community consultation in advance of the listing of terrorist organisations. The Government has undertaken a number of steps to ensure awareness of the terrorist organisation offences. Following the listing of an organisation as a terrorist organisation, the Attorney-General issues a media release attaching the Statement of Reasons for the organisation. This information is disseminated to all major media outlets. The Attorney-General's Department's National Security website has been improved to give greater access to information and provides a list of all organisations listed as terrorist organisations in Australia, along with the Statement of Reasons for each of those organisations.

The Attorney-General's Department has produced a 'Question and Answer' pamphlet providing information on recent counter-terrorism legislation. This pamphlet is printed in eight different languages and is distributed by officers of the Attorney-General's Department at forums and seminars they are invited to attend. A pamphlet providing information on the terrorist organisation offences including the financing of terrorism offences is currently being developed by the Government.

Departmental officers have spoken at the following forums in relation to Australia's counter-terrorism measures:

- 27 February 2006- Departmental staff briefed the Muslim Community Reference Group on the new counter-terrorism laws;
- 19 April 2006- Departmental staff participated in a legislation and policy forum held at Monash University to discuss the counter-terrorism legislation;
- 19 and 20 May 2006 – Departmental staff provided a presentation on the Government's counter-terrorism legislation at a forum hosted by the Citizens for Democracy in Armidale;
- 28 May 2006- Departmental staff provided a presentation on the Government's counter-terrorism legislation to a forum hosted by the Young Lawyers Association in Sydney;

- 2 June 2006- Departmental staff addressed the Attorney-General's Non-Government Organisation Forum on Human Rights;
- 19 July 2006- Departmental staff provided a presentation on the implications of Australia's new terrorism laws on specific ethnic communities at a conference of The Northern Migrant Resource Centre Inc. in Melbourne; and
- 7 December 2006- Departmental staff provided a presentation on Australia's counter-terrorism legislation and arrangements at the National Security and Crisis Management Workshop in Sydney.

Recommendation 2:

The Committee does not recommend disallowance of these regulations

Response:

The Government agrees with the recommendation