

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Group: 3

Program: 1.6

Question No. AE15/121

Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 24 February and 27 March 2015 hearings:

The Labor Government had a CVE grant program from 2010 onwards. At last Estimates, the Government made it clear that they had decided not to renew this program when they took Government. Can you confirm that the Government did not allocate any further grant funding after the 2013 election?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Countering Violent Extremism programme has run continuously since 2010. One element of the programme, the Building Community Grants Programme (BCR), did not continue. The purpose of the BCR grants was to encourage communities across Australia to build resilience to violent extremism. These grants funded a series of projects and development of resources that are now available more broadly. Evaluation at the conclusion of the program was that a more personalised and individual approach with those vulnerable to extremist influences was needed.

On 8 January 2015 the Government, opened the Living Safe Together Grants Programme. These grants are designed to assist non-government organisations build their capacity to deliver services that could help radicalised individuals turn away from violent ideologies.

The Living Safe Together Grants is one aspect of the Government's \$40 million commitment to countering violent extremism. Efforts to build and maintain secure communities remains a critical area of focus and are being led by the Social Services Portfolio through more than \$660 million for Multicultural programs and settlement services.