

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017**

**Attorney General's Department**

**Program: 1.2 AGD Operating Expenses - National Security and Criminal Justice**

**Question No. BE17-035**

**Senator Pratt asked the following question on 24 May 2017:**

Senator PRATT: I understand that with countering violent extremism there would be many millions of dollars spent in the AFP, border control and all of that, but I am looking at those community, social, early intervention type things. The figures that you have given me tonight, do they pertain to the same kinds of programs?

Senator Brandis: They certainly include the community intervention programs, yes.

Senator PRATT: Do they include other kinds of programs?

Senator Brandis: Let me take that on notice so the figures can be disaggregated further if they are able to be.

**The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

The Countering Violent Extremism funding of \$13.4 million over four years under the Living Safe Together (LST) Program commenced July 2014 and includes:

• Intervention Program (includes training development and delivery, and LST grants program)	\$9.577m
• Community Awareness and Education	\$1.455m
• Online Safety	\$0.66m
• Departmental funding and program administration (staffing, suppliers, departmental expenses, international engagement, ad-hoc running costs)	\$1.669m
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13.361m</b>

The bulk of the Countering Violent Extremism funding has been prioritised towards the establishment of the national intervention program across Australia.

The department also administers the \$21.7m Challenging Terrorist Propaganda program (2015-16 to 2018-19) which delivers activities that aim to combat terrorist propaganda (particularly online).

In addition, the department administers close to \$2 million annually of funding for CVE initiatives via the CVE Sub-Committee (CVESC) of the Australia-New Zealand Counter Terrorism Committee. This funding supports programs including training for frontline officials, diversion and rehabilitation programs, and research to support CVE programs and policies.

Other Commonwealth agencies, such as the Department of Social Services and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, run a range of social cohesion programs that are complementary to CVE programs.

The Commonwealth also supports State and Territory jurisdictions in their CVE efforts. Supported by the above work, all States and Territories have established intervention programs to identify, risk-assess and provide support to individuals whose behaviour indicates they may be radicalising to violent extremism.

Some examples of other work being undertaken by the States include:

- In November 2015, the NSW Government announced a \$47 million suite of measures to address violent extremism.
- In May 2015, Victoria established a Ministerial Taskforce on Social Cohesion and Community Resilience with funding of \$25 million to counter and prevent violent extremism.
- In Queensland, the \$7.4m *We Are Queensland* Action Plan promotes diversity and a sense of belonging, including the rollout of training to school leaders, and a social cohesion action plan.