

New countering violent extremism programme

The Australian Government recognises the importance of working with communities to counter violent extremism and radicalisation in Australia. Additional funding has been allocated to a new Countering Violent Extremism programme.

The new programme

The new programme commences in 2014 and will run over four years. The aim of the programme is to combat the threat posed by home-grown terrorism and to discourage or deter Australians from travelling offshore to participate in conflicts.

The emphasis is on prevention and early intervention.

New measures will include:

- Early intervention and counter radicalisation programmes to help and support people to deradicalise and disengage from violent ideologies.
- Working with communities so they can help prevent people from moving down the path of radicalisation to violence, and
- Addressing online radicalisation and reducing the impact of terrorist's use of the social media by helping people to develop the digital skills needed to critically assess terrorists' claims and promote alternative messages online.

The work will be led by the Attorney-General's Department together with communities and other government agencies.

Intervention and support programmes

The focus for countering violent extremism efforts will be on providing appropriate support and intervention programmes to those most at risk of radicalisation as a result of overseas conflicts.

These programmes will help individuals:

- vulnerable to radicalisation and showing signs of going down that path
- attempting to travel to participate in overseas conflict, and
- who have previously undertaken activities in conflict zones and have returned to Australia but are not subject to criminal charges.

Intervention programmes may include youth diversion activities, healthcare initiatives, mentoring, employment and educational pathway support and counselling.

The Attorney-General's Department will work with community leaders and government officials in States and Territories to develop an intervention framework to provide nationally consistent policies and assessment tools which will guide referral and support processes.

Well-informed and equipped families, communities and local institutions are essential.

Building on existing work

The Australian Government has already undertaken work in this area through the Building Community Resilience Grants programme. This programme provided funding for community based pilot projects, commissioned relevant research and established the evidence base and evaluation framework needed to drive future work in this area.

That work is now complete and countering violent extremism is now a well-embedded element of the Government's national security efforts. Importantly, the resources and project concepts developed over the last four years will be available to help communities continue the work they have been doing to build resilience to radicalisation.

More information

For more information please contact the Countering Violent Extremism Unit, Attorney-General's Department via email livingsafetogether@ag.gov.au

VISIT:

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TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO TO COUNTER
VIOLENT EXTREMISM