

Thematic Briefs Counter-Terrorism

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

New domestic counter-terrorism measures

On 5 August, the Prime Minister announced \$630 million in additional funding over the next four years to enhance the capabilities of agencies involved in counter-terrorism activities. The funding will provide for new counter-terrorism measures, including greater powers for police and law enforcement authorities to detain and question jihadists; measures to prevent and discourage use of the internet for terrorist recruitment, support and propaganda; increased emphasis on the Government's intervention and community engagement programs to counter violent extremism and radicalisation; and support for new programs to bolster monitoring and disruption of terrorist activities in Australia and overseas.

On 27 August, Prime Minister Abbott announced that Customs and Border Protection Service had commenced operating special counter-terrorism units at Sydney and Melbourne airports. Similar units, and bio-metric screening, are to be established at all international airports in Australia. An additional 80 Border Protection officers will be deployed to Australian airports to monitor the movements of people on national security watch lists.

Further new legislative measures are planned to toughen our national security laws. These measures will strengthen our ability to arrest, monitor, investigate and prosecute returning foreign fighters; prevent extremists departing overseas; and broaden the criteria for listing terrorist organisations to include those that encourage terrorist acts.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Foreign Terrorist Fighters

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Australia's response

The Government has responded robustly to the threat of FTF and violent extremism by dedicating significant resources (\$1.4 billion) to strengthening its counter-terrorism (CT) architecture and has implemented a range of new measures, including:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- passing four separate packages of legislation that strengthen the Government's ability to monitor, investigate, arrest and prosecute returning foreign fighters;

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- listing Mosul district in Ninewa Province in Iraq, and al-Raqqa province in Syria, as 'declared areas' making it an offence to enter or remain in these areas without a legitimate reason;

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

International engagement

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We took a leading role at the UN during our UN Security Council (UNSC) term. We led efforts to apply sanctions to Daesh as chair of the UNSC Al Qaida Sanctions Committee. In September 2014, Australia co-sponsored UNSC Resolution 2178 which requires all UN Member States to take measures to suppress the flow of FTFs. In November 2014 we secured adoption (presided over by you) of an action plan to accelerate implementation of UNSC Resolutions 2170 and 2178 to starve Daesh and Al-Nusra Front of its fighters and funds. s 22(1)(a)(ii)