

Victorian Government Response

Inquiry into Extremism in Victoria





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Acknowledgement

The Victorian Government acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and acknowledges and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.

Introduction

The Victorian Government (the government) welcomes the Report and recommendations from the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee's Inquiry into Extremism in Victoria.

The government also thanks the Committee for its comprehensive review of the rise of extremism in Victoria as well as ways to counter violent extremism, and those who provided submissions and evidence to the Inquiry.

While the government recognises that extremism is not a new phenomenon, in recent years extremism in Victoria has re-emerged and become more visible. As such, the Inquiry and subsequent Report are both relevant and timely.

Further, given that extremism is a dynamic area subject to rapid change, the Report provides valuable insight into the reasons behind the rise in extremism, recruitment and communication methods as well as mechanisms to counter violent extremist groups and their influence.

The government is committed to continuing to revise and refine its multi-faceted approach to countering violent extremism. Security incidents both in Australia and overseas highlight the enduring threat of violent extremism and the need for governments to remain vigilant and develop innovative, relevant strategies and policies.

Across government, including in our education, health care, justice and corrections systems, Victoria has in place strong arrangements designed to counter-violent extremism. These arrangements are continually being reviewed to ensure that they are fit for purpose and will be further strengthened as a result of the recommendations of the Committee.

In addition to the countering violent extremism initiatives undertaken by various government departments and Victoria Police, Victoria Police led counter terrorism responses, are a key component of the government's work to keep Victorian's safe.

Recognising the increasingly complex and dynamic nature of threats, Victoria Police maintains a focus on the strategic and operational counter terrorism environment. The recently updated Victoria Police Counter Terrorism Strategy 2022-25 outlines Victoria Police's counter terrorism priorities and activities. The Report will assist Victoria Police in further developing guiding principles to identify effective counter terrorism responses.

The government would like to again acknowledge the very important work of the Legal and Social Issues Committee, as well as the individuals and organisations who shared their time and expertise with the Inquiry.



The Victorian Government's response

The Victorian Government is pleased to respond to the Committee's Report.

Violent extremism is complex and dynamic. The government is committed to engaging with the findings and recommendations of the Report and will continue to develop and implement evidence-based initiatives to counter violent extremism.

The government's response addresses each recommendation in the Report, identifying current government initiatives where appropriate, as well as future priorities and actions that will respond to the Inquiry's recommendations.

The response was prepared in consultation with key government agencies, including Victoria Police. It builds on the government's submission to the Inquiry.

Recommendation 1

That the Victorian Government and Members of Parliament seek ways to build public trust in the Parliament, including developing measures to improve transparency. This should include investigating the potential benefits of introducing an integrity charter.

Response: Support in Principle

To improve public confidence in political parties and public institutions, the government has committed to a range of reforms to significantly overhaul Victoria's parliamentary standards and integrity regime.

The government will support and implement all 21 recommendations made by the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) and the Victorian Ombudsman in their joint Operation Watts report by June 2024, including:

- establishing an independent Parliamentary Integrity Commissioner with robust powers to receive and investigate allegations of misconduct by Members of Parliament (MPs); and
- establishing the Parliamentary Ethics Committee to promote and monitor the effectiveness of the Statement of Values and Code of Conduct for MPs.

The government will also implement an additional three integrity-related reforms to strengthen public trust and lift standards for the administration of political parties, including ensuring that the new Parliamentary Integrity Commissioner can investigate allegations of inappropriate workplace behaviour by MPs, such as bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, and victimisation. The government has also committed to codifying employment arrangements for ministerial staff in legislation, and requiring major political parties to meet minimum party administration requirements to qualify for public funding.

In addition to the Operation Watts reforms, the government will also act on recommendations made in the October 2022 IBAC Special Report into corruption risks associated with donations and lobbying, including:

- ensuring that recommendations relating to political donations are considered by the expert panel review of the *Electoral Act 2002*, which will review the operation of the government's 2018 electoral and donations reforms; and
- implementing reforms to improve Victoria's lobbying regulation regime.



Taken together, these reforms aim to improve public trust in Parliament and other public institutions and will substantially address the issues underlying the recommendation to introduce an integrity charter. The reforms will provide greater transparency and oversight of MPs, and will ensure that Victoria's parliamentary standards and integrity regime is fit-for-purpose and meets contemporary expectations.

These reforms will build on the government's previous reforms to improve Victoria's parliamentary standards and integrity regime, including:

- introducing a new legislative scheme to regulate political donations for state government elections in 2018; and
- establishing the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal in 2019 to independently set the value of salaries and allowances for MPs.

Recommendation 2

That the Victorian Government consider funding research investigating the links between extremism and family violence, anti-women, or anti-feminist sentiment, and masculinity to identify further opportunities for counter-extremism measures.

Response: Support

The government recognises the importance of understanding the potential links between extremism and family violence, anti-women, or anti-feminist sentiment and masculinity, to further identify opportunities for counter extremism measures.

The government has already committed to delivering contemporary research to inform evidence-based countering violent extremism policies. In particular, the government engaged the Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies (CRIS) to deliver policy-relevant research outcomes focused on understanding and building resilience to contemporary forms of extremist hate, mobilisation and violence that threaten Victorian social cohesion. CRIS brings together academics, community groups, government and industry partners to research, develop, translate and communicate evidence-based, practical and up-to-date knowledge and recourses.

The government will carefully examine this and other existing commitments to identify further opportunities to explore these issues. In particular, the government will look into further research on the topics of anti-LGBTIQ+ sentiment and the link between extremism and family violence, anti-women, anti-feminist sentiment and/or masculinity.



Recommendation 3

That the Victorian Government continue to implement the recommendations from the Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee's report on the Inquiry into Anti-Vilification Protections, in particular recommendations 33 and 34.

Response: Support in Principle

Vilification has no place in our community, and addressing vilification is an important part of countering extremism.

The government supports or supports-in-principle all recommendations (including recommendations 33 and 34) of the Inquiry into Anti-Vilification Protections directed to the government, except for recommendation 23, which requires further consideration. For more detail about the government's response to the Inquiry into Anti-Vilification Protections, see <https://www.vic.gov.au/response-inquiry-anti-vilification-protection>.

As a first step to implementing recommendations arising from the Inquiry into Anti-Vilification Protections, the government introduced a new criminal offence to prohibit the public display of Nazi symbols, acquitting recommendation 24.

The Government has committed to expanding Victorian law to include a ban on the Nazi salute, in recognition of the rise in neo-Nazi activity and its role in inciting hate behaviour. The Victorian Government is prioritising this legislative change and will carefully consider how this reform can be implemented.

The government is planning the best way to make further changes to Victoria's anti-vilification protections. The changes are complex and require careful consideration of different human rights. Extensive consultation will take place with relevant communities and stakeholders about any reforms.

Recommendation 4

That in future public health emergencies, the Victorian Government build on its outreach and communication efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure there is an emphasis on public information that is in plain language, timely, accessible and easy to interpret.

Response: Support

The Victorian Government ensures clear, timely, tailored, and accurate public information is provided to the Victorian community about how to stay safe how to and access support services during a public health emergency.

This is achieved through direct engagement with the community, emergency services organisations, healthcare providers, and importantly trusted community leaders with established community relationships who can help dispel rumours and misinformation.

Comprehensive and far-reaching communications and engagement approaches, methods, and channels will be required to reach impacted Victorians. Planning and response activities will provide appropriate communications and engagement methods for Aboriginal and Torres Strait



Islander peoples, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and Victorians with a need for accessible communications.

Recommendation 5

That the Victorian Government ensure that all of Victoria's countering violent extremism programs, including but not limited to the Community Integration Support Program (CISP), continue to be reviewed externally on a regular basis to ensure they are effective and adapting to the evolving extremism landscape.

Response: Support in Principle

The government is committed to the ongoing review and refinement of its countering violent extremism (CVE) programs. The government is already delivering a number of early intervention programs that have existing reporting and evaluation requirements, both internal and external, that contribute to the acquittal of this recommendation.

The government ensures CVE programs are reviewed on a regular basis, including programs being delivered by the Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS) and Victoria Police.

The *Terrorism (Community Protection) Amendment Act 2021* (the Act) established two early intervention case management schemes – the Voluntary Case Management (VCM) scheme and the Support and Engagement Order (SEO) scheme, as well as a Countering Violent Extremism Multi-Agency Panel (CVE MAP) and a standalone information sharing scheme. Under the Act, the Secretary DJCS, is required to undertake an independent review of the operation and effectiveness of the VCM and the CVE MAP after three years' operation. The Secretary is also required to report annually on the operation of the VCM and SEO schemes, including on the number of referred persons under case management and the number of people subject to SEOs.

Corrections Victoria's (CV) Countering Violence Extremism Service Delivery Model is a state-wide service across prisons and community correctional services that aims to appropriately service offenders identified as violent extremists or those displaying early signs of radicalisation. CV have piloted the Specialised Extremist Risk Intervention Service (SERIS), which focuses on the interventions aimed at the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners and offenders at risk of violent extremism through risk assessments, pro-integration needs assessments and non-offence specific and offence-specific interventions.

As part of the project, Justice Evaluations, Evidence and Insights within DJCS have conducted a program evaluation to:

- determine the effectiveness of the implementation of the pilot
- identify improvements required for continued program delivery
- identify measures to evaluate outcomes ongoing; and
- assist CV to determine whether the intervention model should be established on an ongoing basis.

Although this evaluation is focused on the implementation of SERIS by CV in Victoria, findings from this evaluation could also help inform approaches adopted by other jurisdictions for this cohort.



Since its establishment in 2010, Victoria Police has facilitated regular robust and independent reviews of Victoria's Community Integration Support Program (CISP). These reviews are conducted through three main avenues:

- internally, which allows consideration of materials and intelligence protected by security classifications
- externally by community groups and consultants which allows evaluation of the effectiveness in the community to assess whether the programs are serving community needs; and
- externally by academia to ensure that programs are evidence based and consistent with best practice principles and responsive to emerging threats.

Each of these review types has merit and is required to holistically assess the effectiveness of programs to deliver CVE intervention for individuals radicalising to violence. Similarly, reviews will also be undertaken and carried out as the Network for Intervention and Tailored Engagement (NITE) program matures.

Further work is being undertaken to enable the Government to determine the best way to implement this recommendation. Given this, the recommendation is supported in principle..

Recommendation 6

That the Victorian Government develop a strategy to support community-driven social cohesion initiatives aimed at building connections and trust amongst community members and between community members and civic institutions.

Response: Support in Principle

The government recognises that social cohesion among community groups creates a sense of belonging and promotes group solidarity and trust. This results in healthy relationships both among community members as well as between community members and their civil institutions. As such, the government has already committed to delivering programs that support community driven social cohesion.

The government, through four social cohesion focused Community Support Groups, supports multicultural communities across Victoria in various ways.

The Northern Community Support Group (NCSG) provides support to Muslim communities in Melbourne's northern suburbs with initiatives focused on: employment, education and training; culturally and religiously appropriate support services; and community resilience and religious identity and social participation. The NCSG provides primary and secondary interventions to boost community resilience and counter anti-social behaviour. It offers comprehensive case management and intervention for clients covering a range of areas including mental health, financial hardship, and social participation. The NCSG is grounded in strong community-based partnerships and is underpinned by social cohesion themes of belonging, social justice, acceptance and worth.

Komak, The Huddle and Himilo provide activities and services to local Afghan and Somali communities that foster and strengthen inclusion and a sense of belonging, build community resilience, youth leadership, and family and social cohesion, and improve education and employment outcomes for young people. The CSGs also support young people in the community at risk of being drawn to violent extremism.



The government's commitment to launching Victoria's first Anti-Racism Strategy will further support social cohesion by setting out a roadmap to addressing racism and faith-based discrimination in Victoria. The Anti-Racism Strategy is under development supported by expert advice from the Anti-Racism Taskforce.

Mental health and wellbeing system transformation is underway as part of the Victorian Government's commitment to implementing all recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System. This includes development of Victoria's first plan to prevent and reduce mental illness and promote better wellbeing, primarily by building more inclusive and connected communities. It also includes establishing Social Inclusion Action Groups in local government areas to promote and increase social inclusion and connection. The first five of these groups are being established in 2023 and the next five in 2024-25.

In addition, the government currently supports community-driven social cohesion through the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) led Multicultural Festivals and Events fund which supports multicultural community organisations to deliver culturally significant events to showcase Victoria's cultural diversity and foster social cohesion.

The Victorian Government's Crime Prevention Strategy sets out a clear approach for government to work in partnership with community groups, local councils, businesses, and support services to tackle the underlying causes of crime. Initiatives under the Strategy are engaging communities across the state to deliver local crime prevention solutions – to prevent young people's contact with the criminal justice system, strengthen community cohesion, and build safer, more connected communities for all Victorians.

In addition, the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) has supported social cohesion by creating more opportunities for people through jobs and skills; supporting businesses and industries to grow and prosper; and building vibrant communities and regions. DJSIR has brought people together in events, communities and workplaces.

The DJSIR through Jobs Victoria has supported communities by connecting jobseekers and employers and helping them to overcome barriers to employment. Services are community-based and state-wide. They range from navigational support to advisory support to intensive employment case management. Jobs Victoria services have been integrated and delivered through partnerships and therefore deliver wrap-around supports tailored to individuals and businesses. Past examples include services that incorporate training and education, intervention services (e.g. alcohol and other drug, mental health), housing, community connection and more.

The DJSIR place-based economic inclusion initiative supported local economic inclusion initiatives in seven communities. Initiatives brought together community leaders, businesses and industry, skills and training service providers, people with lived experience, and government. Together they designed and delivered approaches to improve economic inclusion and wellbeing that were responsive to local needs and aspirations. Previous examples of local innovations included working with local businesses to provide cultural competency training, building inclusive recruitment practices and embedding workforce diversity targets, developing local microenterprises, and supporting social procurement policy reform and practices.

The government will consider how to best leverage existing social cohesion work being undertaken by various agencies to continue to build connections and trust amongst community members and between community members and civic institutions. This may include the development of a social cohesion strategy. Further work is being undertaken to enable the Government to decide the best way to implement this recommendation and therefore, this recommendation is supported in principle.



Recommendation 7

That the Victorian Government support the ongoing provision of existing anti-racism education programs and actively seek to improve and increase the provision of such programs in the community.

Response: Support

The government has already committed to the delivery of initiatives to improve and increase the ongoing provision of anti-racism and anti-discrimination education programs.

The Department of Education (DE) has established a number of programs to address racism and racial discrimination in Victorian schools. This includes:

- Speak Out Against Racism (SOAR) is a whole of school, multi level, multi strategy approach that aims to foster effective bystander responses to racism and racial discrimination at schools, which is being rolled out across 15 sites in 2023.
- Schools Standing Up to Racism (SSUR) is a collaboration between the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) and DE and offers resources and workshops to support schools to address racism and discrimination.
- Preventing Racist Bullying is a range of resources, tools and best practice advice available through Bully Stoppers, including advice to identify racist bullying, its impacts and how to ensure students from all backgrounds feel safe at school.
- Courage to Care (C2C) is a program that aims to build understanding of racism and inspire participants to be 'upstanders', challenging participants to consider the impact of their own actions and attitudes. The government has committed \$2 million to continue the program until 2026.
- Antisemitism e-modules, which build capacity and knowledge among school staff regarding antisemitism and the experience of being Jewish in government schools.
- A comprehensive teacher professional learning program for government secondary school teachers to build capacity and capability in delivering mandatory Holocaust Education to students in Year 9/10 as part of the History curriculum.
- Strengthening Professional Capability of Principals in Koorie Education (SPPIKE) leadership programs provide skills to school leadership on how to strengthen capability to implement systematic workforce cultural change at a school, local and system level. The government has committed \$2.1 million to extend the program in 2023.

The government has also committed to launching Victoria's first Anti-Racism Strategy, which will further investigate the ongoing provision of anti-racism education programs in the community.



Recommendation 8

That the Victorian Government should review the digital and critical literacy skills taught via the primary and secondary school curriculum to identify opportunities for improvement and expansion.

Response: Support

The government acknowledges the importance of digital and critical literacy skills in helping Victorian children to navigate the internet safely, critically analyse information they come across and understand which sources can be relied upon.

The current Victorian Curriculum F-10 includes an explicit focus on critical and creative thinking, literacy, information and communications technology capability, intercultural capability and civics and citizenship, all aimed at providing students with the core skills needed to think critically in a range of contexts and develop an acceptance and appreciation of cultural diversity for a cohesive community.

This is supported by DE resources such as the Literacy Teaching Toolkit which supports effective teaching of the critical literacies, and advice on Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Digital Technologies.

In 2023, the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is undertaking a revision process to adapt the latest version of the Australian Curriculum to the Victorian context.

The revision process presents the opportunity to ensure the next generation of the Victorian Curriculum F–10 continues to provide a high-quality, relevant curriculum that effectively meets the needs of students and teachers across the state.

Building on the success of the current Victorian Curriculum F–10, the revisions will:

- ensure the Australian Curriculum is implemented in Victoria while maintaining Victorian priorities and standards
- make it more teachable and manageable to enable efficient and effective implementation, strengthening student access to the essential knowledge and skills needed to be successful learners
- improve achievement standards to help teachers assess student learning more effectively.

This will include consideration of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority review of the General Capabilities (Literacy, Digital Literacy (formally ICT Capability)), Critical and Creative Thinking, Intercultural Understanding and Personal and Social Capability) and the learning areas of English, Civics and Citizenship and Digital Technologies.



Recommendation 9

That the Victorian Government ensure youth workers are adequately and appropriately resourced to provide effective service delivery of youth supports and programs aimed at strengthening trust and social connectedness and mitigating the risks of radicalisation. Further, that youth workers are proactively engaged and consulted in the development and implementation of the government's youth policies and strategies.

Response: Support in principle

The government acknowledges the importance of ensuring youth workers have the skills and tools they need to effectively connect with young people, increase social connectedness and build trust in civic institutions.

The government will consider this recommendation in the context of existing programs, supports and guidance available to youth workers.

DFFH's Our Promise, Your Future: Victoria's youth strategy 2022-2027 commits government to ongoing conversations with youth and community sectors through the establishment of an advisory group to guide the strategy's rollout across government.

The government currently delivers several initiatives relevant to the recommendation through the Youth portfolio, supporting:

- The core operations of youth peak and representative bodies which employ, work with and advocate for Victorian youth workers.
- The Community Support Groups (CSGs) an early intervention initiative delivering support to young people from multicultural communities and their families.

DE continues to implement the Social Cohesion Through Education (SCTE) initiative. SCTE is a place-based initiative that funds organisations to employ youth workers to provide support to school communities and students by providing engagement opportunities and tailored activities to enhance social cohesion and build resilience to all forms of violent extremism. The SCTE initiative seeks to ensure Victorian school communities continue to be safe, supportive, and inclusive environments – reducing their risks of marginalisation and attraction to all forms of violent extremism.

The government has committed \$2.9 million to continue the SCTE program until 2025.

In, addition, there are a number of initiatives within the Youth Justice portfolio that align with Recommendation 9:

- Youth Justice workers in custody and community are provided with training on specific psychometric assessment tools relevant to identifying radicalisation risk.
- Cherry Creek Youth Justice Precinct includes purpose-built infrastructure for a Preventative Detention Unit which will include specialised worker training.
- The Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020-2030 includes a key action for Youth Justice to support Victoria Police to identify and respond to young people at risk of radicalising or engaging in violent extremism.
- The High Risk Panel, chaired by the Youth Justice Commissioner, provides state-wide oversight of referrals, assessments and disengagement interventions (including Victoria Police programs) for children and young people who are at-risk of radicalising, showing



signs of escalating radicalisation, or charged with terrorism-related offences. There is brokerage available to assist in maintaining services or for providing additional supports for these young people, which is overseen by the High Risk Panel.

Furthermore, government notes that the findings of the Yoorrook Justice Commission into systemic injustices in the child protection and criminal justice systems may guide implementation of this recommendation.

Recommendation 10

That the Victorian Government review whether the Firearms Act 1996 should be amended to expand the fit and proper person test to include people who are members of violent extremist groups.

Response: Support

The government is satisfied that the current application of the 'fit and proper person' test by Victoria Police when determining an individual's eligibility for a firearms licence is broad enough to include people who are members of violent extremist groups.

The *Firearms Act 1996* requires that a person must be a 'fit and proper person' to possess, carry, use, acquire or dispose of a firearm. 'Fit and proper' is not defined in the *Firearms Act 1996*, but a broad interpretation is applied by Victoria Police and a person may not be considered to be a fit and proper person if they have:

- a history of irresponsible handling of firearms
- been deemed to be a 'prohibited person'
- findings of guilt for crimes of violence
- not proven to be of good character for example by being a member of, or associated with, a violent extremist group
- a criminal history associated with firearms (e.g. armed robbery, assault with a weapon, attempted murder and murder)
- provided false or misleading information to the police in a firearms matter
- a record of physical or mental illness that medical evidence suggests should exclude them from owning or using firearms
- a record of drug or alcohol misuse that medical advice suggests should exclude them from owning or using a firearm
- failed to possess sufficient knowledge and competency in the carriage and use of firearms (eg. has not completed or has failed the Victorian Firearms Safety Course).

A person must remain 'fit and proper' for the duration of their firearms licence. If Victoria Police become aware of information that impacts on this assessment, a firearms licence can be suspended or cancelled.

Victoria Police assesses each firearms licence application on a case-by-case basis. Membership of a violent extremist group is a relevant consideration by Victoria Police and would prevent a person from being considered 'fit and proper' for the purpose of obtaining a firearms licence. Victoria Police has refused firearms licence applications in the past where it



was identified that an applicant is a member of or has associations with a violent extremist group.

Recommendation 11

That the Victorian Government through National Cabinet advocate for the introduction of a national, cross-jurisdictional database of registered firearms and firearms licence holders.

Response: Support in principle

The government will support any National Cabinet consideration or decision to strengthen national, cross-jurisdictional information on registered firearms and firearm licence holders.

National Cabinet has committed to improving the way firearms information is share across Australian jurisdictions to keep police and the community safe.

The Police Minister's Council (PMC) is meeting regularly to progress the concept of a national firearms register, supported by The Firearms and Weapons Policy Working Group, a national officer-level multi-jurisdictional group which provides expert policy advice on firearms and weapons.

PMC has agreed to the key capabilities that a register would need to deliver on the commitment of National Cabinet. This includes near real time:

- nationwide tracing of firearms, frames, receivers and suppressors
- nationwide sharing of information on firearms owners and licences
- national licence verification service
- national alert and notification function for high-risk information or events
- reporting and analysis function that provides a national view of firearms trends.

The above capabilities would significantly enhance Australia's firearms management to reduce illicit diversion and manufacturing, improve compliance and enforcement functions, and improve understanding and analysis of firearms ownership and risks.

Work is continuing to determine the best way to deliver these capabilities, noting responsibility for firearms management is shared between the states, territories and the Commonwealth and there are differences in the way firearms are categorised and relevant data is managed across the jurisdictions. PMC is alert to the need to ensure the security of data in any future register through appropriate cybersecurity protections, strict access controls and privacy policies.

PMC will report on progress to National Cabinet in coming months.



Recommendation 12

That the Victorian Government advocate to the Commonwealth Government for the proscription of extremist organisations active in Victoria which clearly meet the legal tests for engaging in preparing, planning, assisting or fostering the doing of a terrorist act, or advocating the doing of a terrorist act.

Response: Support in principle

There is already a strong process in place for the proscription of extremist groups active in Victoria and the government works closely with the Commonwealth as the lead on listings and re-listings of terrorist organisations in Australia. For an organisation to be listed as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code, the Minister for Home Affairs must be satisfied on reasonable grounds that the organisation meets the following legislative criteria:

- is directly, or indirectly engaged in, preparing, planning, assisting in or fostering the doing of a terrorist act; or
- advocates the doing of a terrorist act.

The effect of these regulations is that these organisations are confirmed as terrorist organisations for the purposes of offences listed in Division 102 of the Criminal Code. For example, directing the activities of a terrorist organisation or recruiting persons to a terrorist organisation.

The Commonwealth Attorney-General holds administrative responsibility for Division 102 of the Criminal Code, including listing terrorist organisations. Under the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Counter-Terrorism Laws, a regulation specifying a terrorist organisation will not be made if the majority of states and territories object to its listing within a specified timeframe and provide reasons for their objections. Victoria's agreement is provided by the Premier, in consultation with the Minister for Police.

The Attorney-General provides all states and territories with a copy of the Statements of Reasons with regard to the organisations. The Statements of Reasons provide information on the history, ideology, leadership and activities of the organisations, and are the basis upon which the Minister is satisfied that the organisations meet the legal threshold for listing.

Victoria Police will continue to work closely with the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation) to support their assessments of any organisations of security concern in meeting the aforementioned legislative criteria. If deemed to meet those criteria and it is suitable from an operational perspective to be proscribed, Victoria Police will advocate for proscription.

Currently 29 organisations are listed as terrorist organisations under the Criminal Code, including three nationalist and racist violent extremist groups.