



Australian Government

Department of Home Affairs

Mr P.A. Katsambanis, MLA
Chairman
Community Development and Justice Standing Committee
Parliament of Western Australia
Email via: lacdjsc@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Katsambanis,

Thank you for your letter of 18 October addressed to my predecessor Mr Tony Sheehan, seeking further comment in support of the *Inquiry into the protection of crowded places in Western Australia from terrorist acts*. I apologise for the delay in responding to your letter. On 8 October, I was appointed as the new Commonwealth Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and your letter has only recently been forwarded to me.

My views have largely been captured already by my predecessor through his evidence to the Inquiry. As you know, a number of issues raised in your letter and initial report of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee are the subject of existing ANZCTC reviews.

We have previously outlined the areas of focus of the independent review of the implementation of *Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism*. The independent reviewers have consulted with State and Territory Governments, police, owners and operators of crowded places and local councils around Australia. We expect that the ANZCTC will consider the findings of the independent review in the first half of 2019.

A current priority for the ANZCTC Crowded Places Advisory Group (CPAG) is the development of a new training regime to establish a national protective security advice capability in jurisdictional police services. This training will strengthen the ability of State and Territory police to assist owners and operators in protecting their crowded places.

The CPAG is also currently examining select elements of the Australian private security industry. The examination will involve a review of existing occupational standards and other related matters that apply to Australian security officers, security business owners, trainers, security equipment installers and security consultants. This body of work is expected to be completed in June 2019.

Yours sincerely

Linda Geddes
Commonwealth Counter-Terrorism Coordinator
Department of Home Affairs
3 December 2018