




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Counterterrorism

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): It is a sad reality that governments the world over are faced with the threat of terrorism. Here in Australia the national terrorism threat level is probable. That means that we must be forever vigilant; that we have a laser-like focus on the prevention of terrorism. It means that all levels of government and all law enforcement agencies must work cooperatively to ensure we are best prepared to identify potential threats early and respond as necessary.

This week I have written to the federal Attorney-General, Senator George Brandis, providing my government's support for two bills the federal government proposes to introduce into parliament this week implementing new counterterrorism powers. One bill will introduce a uniform nationwide regime for postsentence detention for terrorist offenders who still present a risk to the community after completing their sentence. This proposed legislation enables the Attorney-General to apply to a state Supreme Court for a postsentence detention order. This model of postsentence detention was pioneered here in Queensland through the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act. I believe it is crucial that authorities can maintain an appropriate level of surveillance on those who have offended and could potentially offend again. The Queensland government has supported this bill under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Counter-Terrorism Laws as a means to improve community safety, noting that the bill employs an appropriate threshold test and is balanced by sufficient safeguards.

The other bill to be introduced will reduce the age limit for control orders from 16 years to 14 years. This reflects the changing nature of terrorism, acknowledging the number of recent incidents involving young teenagers. Again, it is a sad reality that such measures are needed, but we must do everything in our power to keep innocent Queenslanders and Australians safe. In providing support for this bill, the Queensland government noted the additional safeguards that apply for orders made for people under 18 years.

The Queensland government looks forward to continuing discussions with the federal government to ensure the effective operation of the proposed regime including how the federal government will address any resourcing implications for Queensland. My government has also recently introduced its own measures to enhance counterterrorism and emergency powers to enable police to respond swiftly to any emergency situations. This is in addition to the operational policing activity that continues to occur involving the Queensland Police Service, ASIO and the AFP including specific work to identify people who are at risk of becoming so-called 'lone wolf' offenders. The Queensland government will continue to act to ensure that effective measures are in place to address the continuing threat of terrorism.