

Bringing expertise together to counter violent extremism

10 August 2015

Violent extremism is a complex and rapidly evolving challenge facing many nations across the world. To better understand the threat and complexities of violent extremism, today I launched the Australian Intervention Support Hub at the Australian National University.

This pioneering centre will be an invaluable source of expertise and information for government and communities working to counter violent extremism, and the Australian Government has provided \$700,000 to support its establishment.

The Hub will work with community organisations to build their capacity to develop effective, community-oriented approaches to counter violent extremism, and support individuals who are at risk of radicalisation.

It will also identify evolving international best practice in countering violent extremism (CVE) and evidence-based research, and facilitate independent evaluation of CVE programs.

Two of Australia's leading universities, the Australian National University and Deakin University, will host the Hub to ensure that Australia's CVE programs continue to be informed by evidence-based research and evaluation.

Led by Dr Clarke Jones and Professor Greg Barton, the Hub will bring together a broad range of skills and expertise from other institutions including Monash University, the University of Melbourne, Victoria University, UNSW, the University of Western Sydney, Curtin University and the University of Western Australia.

The Hub will also work with Hedayah, the international centre of excellence for CVE in the United Arab Emirates. Hedayah is sponsored by Australia and other international partners through the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum.

The Attorney-General's Department and the Australian Federal Police have both provided funding towards the establishment of the Hub and its first year of operation.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Dr Jones and Professor Barton and the staff at their respective universities in establishing this centre.