

## **Aussie ISIS fighters 'deserve to be killed'**

[Rosie Lewis](#), [Andrew White](#), The Australian, 12:00AM May 26, 2017

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton has declared Australians fighting with Islamic State in the Middle East “deserve” to be killed, as the government moves to strengthen the military’s involvement in domestic attacks.

Mr Dutton said the government could cancel passports, take away travel documents and strip the Australian citizenship of dual-nationals fighting in Syria and Iraq but insisted the “best outcome” was for those people to be “killed over there and ... don’t come back”. “They don’t annoy anyone again. They get the fate, frankly, they deserve,” Mr Dutton told 2GB radio. “That’s my starting position. But we can’t act here against the Constitution because it would be ruled out by the High Court and people can roll their eyes and talk about the legal niceties — that’s the reality — we’ve got to work within the Constitution and Australian citizens have rights under the Constitution to return.”

Former prime minister John Howard said the Manchester bombing showed Islamic State was trying to retain its “intimidatory power” as it lost ground on the battlefields and warned that attacks were likely to happen again. He said given the number of people who had been radicalised, it was “remarkable” there had not been more attacks. “The sheer horror and patently evil nature of a bomb attack of this kind .... rather than being a game-changer is a reminder that as on the battlefield ISIS is losing ground, it will endeavour to retain its intimidatory power,” Mr Howard said. “The sheer unrestrained, unqualified evil of blowing yourself up with an improvised explosive device in a crowded arena is the pits, according to any human behaviour that we understand .“It is sadly going to happen again and it happens on a fairly regular basis, in places like Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan. But when you think of the number of people who have been radicalised, the number of extremists there are, it is remarkable in a way that there hasn’t been more of them.”

Justice Minister Michael Keenan pledged nobody who the government believed was a threat to the community “would be walking the streets”. He said there were arrangements in place that ensured foreign fighters who returned to Australia would “not pose a threat to the Australian community”. “If we have information that somebody has fought alongside a terror group, who has provided support to a terror group, then we will prosecute them for their crimes,” he told ABC radio.

The Attorney-General George Brandis said he and Defence Minister Marise Payne would take a submission to cabinet “in the near future” that would change the law so that the Australian Defence Force could be “called out” more quickly to assist in terrorist events. “It is important I think that when there is a major terrorist episode of the kind that we’ve lately seen in the United Kingdom, that all the capabilities that the country has that may be useful to deal with that terrorist event are at the disposal of the operational commander,” Senator Brandis said.