Independent National Security Legislation Monitor (INSLM) Statutory Deadline Review

AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SUBMISSION TO THE ACTING INSLM

15 May 2017
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1 Introduction

1. The Australian Human Rights Commission (the Commission) makes this submission to the Acting Independent National Security Legislation Monitor (INSLM) in relation to the inquiry being held in relation to a number of ‘statutory deadline reviews’ (the Inquiry). The INSLM is currently reviewing the following areas of counter-terrorism and national security legislation:

   a. Division 3A of Part IAA of the Crimes Act 1914 (Cth) (the Crimes Act) (stop, search and seizure powers relating to terrorist acts and terrorism offences)

   b. Offenses relating to entering and remaining in ‘declared areas’ under Division 119 (foreign incursions and recruitment) of the Criminal Code (Cth) (Criminal Code)

   c. Divisions 104 and 105 of the Criminal Code (control orders and preventive detention orders), including the interoperability of the control order regime and the Criminal Code Amendment (High Risk Terrorist Offenders) Act 2016 (Cth) (High Risk Terrorist Offenders Act).

2. Pursuant to s 6(1B) of the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor Act 2010 (Cth) (the INSLM Act), the INSLM is required to review these provisions by 7 September 2017.

3. On 16 March 2017, the INSLM informed the Commission of the Inquiry and invited it to provide a submission.

4. The Commission is established by the Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Cth) (AHRC Act). It is Australia’s national human rights institution.

5. Part of the role of the INSLM under the INSLM Act is to review the operation, effectiveness and implications of Australia’s counter-terrorism and national security legislation on an ongoing basis. This includes considering whether the laws contain appropriate safeguards for protecting the rights of individuals, remain proportionate to any threat of terrorism or threat to national security or both, and remain necessary. In performing his or her functions, the INSLM is required to have regard to Australia’s international human rights obligations. That is consistent with the objects of the INSLM Act, one of which is to ensure that Australia’s national security legislation is consistent with Australia’s international human rights obligations.

2 Summary

6. The Commission recognises the vital importance of ensuring that intelligence and law enforcement agencies have appropriate powers to protect Australia’s national security and to protect the community from terrorism. Indeed, such steps are consistent with Australia’s obligations under international law, pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolutions, and the obligation to protect the right to life of persons within
Australia’s jurisdiction. This right is itself a human right, enshrined in Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).4

7. Human rights law assumes that these agencies will be granted sufficient powers to fulfil their legitimate mandate. Human rights law also accepts, subject to certain conditions, that the exercise of those powers might impinge to some extent on individual rights and freedoms. Critically, any such limitation on human rights must be:

- clearly expressed
- unambiguous in its terms
- necessary and proportionate in how it responds to potential harm.

8. As the United Nations (UN) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has observed, ‘the purpose of security measures is, fundamentally, to protect freedom and human rights.’5 It is therefore essential that fundamental human rights are protected in the struggle against terrorism.6

9. The laws the subject of this current Inquiry place significant restrictions on the human rights of persons affected by them. The Commission urges the INSLM to closely scrutinise claims that the laws under review impose the minimum necessary restrictions on human rights.

3 Recommendations

10. The Australian Human Rights Commission makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

That the INSLM consider whether there is sufficient evidence to justify the continued retention of expanded legislative powers to stop, search and seize.

Recommendation 2

That the INSLM consider whether the retention of broad unfettered Ministerial powers to prescribe security zones can be justified.

Recommendation 3

In the event that the INSLM is not satisfied that the declared area provisions are necessary and proportionate to achieving a legitimate end, he should recommend that they should be repealed.

Recommendation 4

In the event that the INSLM is satisfied that the declared area provisions are necessary and proportionate and should not be repealed, s 119.3 of the
Criminal Code should be amended so that the Foreign Affairs Minister may declare an area only if she is satisfied that a listed terrorist organisation is engaging in a hostile activity to a significant degree in that area.

Recommendation 5

In the event that the INSLM is satisfied that the declared area provisions are necessary and proportionate and should not be repealed, the exception contained in s 119.2(3) of the Criminal Code should be amended so that s 119.2(1) does not apply to a person if that person enters, or remains in, an area solely for a purpose or purposes not connected with engaging in hostile activities.

Recommendation 6

In the event that recommendation 5 is not accepted:

a. Detailed consideration be given to expanding the list of legitimate reasons for travel to declared zones in s 119.2(3) of the Criminal Code to include, for instance, visiting friends, transacting business, retrieving personal property and attending to personal or financial affairs. The list should be made as comprehensive as possible; and

b. Section 119.2 of the Criminal Code be amended so that it is a defence to a charge of entering or remaining in a declared zone if a person establishes they were in a country for a purpose other than engaging in a hostile activity.

Recommendation 7

In the absence of compelling evidence that the provisions are necessary and proportionate to achieving a legitimate objective, Division 105 of Part 5.3 of the Criminal Code should be repealed.

Recommendation 8

In the absence of compelling evidence that the control order regime is necessary and proportionate to preventing serious acts of terrorism, this regime should be amended to comply with international human rights law, paying particular regard to the aspects of the regime that engage the ICCPR rights identified at paragraphs 67 and 70 of this submission. If the INSLM considers the control order regime cannot be amended to ensure it complies with Australia's international human rights obligations, the control order regime should be repealed.

Recommendation 9

Where an application is made for a continuing detention order, and the court considering the application believes a less restrictive measure (including a control order) could adequately mitigate the relevant risk posed by an individual, the relevant court should have jurisdiction to implement that less
restrictive measure, or to transfer the proceedings to a more appropriate jurisdiction.

4 Background to the present Inquiry

11. The INSLM is required to conduct the present Inquiry by s 6(1B) of the INSLM Act. That provision was introduced into the INSLM Act by the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Act 2014 (Foreign Fighters Act).

12. The stop, search and seizure powers in Division 3A of Part IAA of the Crimes Act and the control order and preventative detention order regimes in Divisions 104 and 105 of Part 5.3 of the Criminal Code were introduced by the Anti-Terrorism Act (No. 2) 2005 (Cth) (Anti-Terrorism Act (No. 2)). Those provisions entered into force on 14 December 2005. They were all made subject to ‘sunset’ provisions, and were to cease operation after 10 years. The Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee, as it then was, said in its report resulting from its inquiry into the Bill which became the Anti-Terrorism Act (No. 2):

Extraordinary laws may be justifiable but they must also be temporary in nature. Sunset provisions ensure that such laws expire on a certain date. This mechanism ensures that extraordinary executive powers legislated during times of emergency are not integrated as the norm and that the case for continued use of extraordinary executive powers is publicly made out by the Government of the day.

13. The Foreign Fighters Bill 2014 (Cth) (Foreign Fighters Bill) was introduced in the Senate on 24 September 2014. It contained provisions that would have extended the operation of the above sunset provisions by 10 years. The Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) for inquiry and report, with an inquiry period that did not allow for a thorough review of the ongoing justification for the provisions. The PJCIS recommended that the sunset provisions be extended by a shorter period and that a review of the provisions be conducted in that time. Those recommendations led amongst other things to the insertion of s 6(1B) in the INSLM Act.

14. The current declared areas provisions of the Criminal Code were inserted by the Foreign Fighters Act. At the time of insertion the provisions were made subject to review by the INSLM and subject to sunset at the same time as the provisions referred to above.

15. Despite the mechanisms that have been put in place to review these various provisions since the passage of the Foreign Fighters Act, the control order and preventative detention order regimes have been modified and extended. The Commission is concerned that that has occurred in circumstances
where the existence of the powers themselves is supposedly subject to review.

16. Some aspects of the control order regime have recently been reviewed by the previous INSLM. This submission focuses on matters that have not been the subject of recent review by the INSLM.

5 Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism Laws

5.1 Protected ICCPR rights

17. The provisions subject to this Inquiry affect a number rights protected by the ICCPR.

18. Article 9 of the ICCPR relevantly provides:

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law.

2. Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him.

…

4. Anyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings before a court, in order that that court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of his detention and order his release if the detention is not lawful.

19. Article 12 of the ICCPR provides:

1. Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence.

2. Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own.

3. The above-mentioned rights shall not be subject to any restrictions except those which are provided by law, are necessary to protect national security, public order (ordre public), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others, and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present Covenant.

4. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country.

20. Article 17 of the ICCPR provides:

1. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honour and reputation.

2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.
5.2 **Terrorism and limitations of human rights**

21. None of the rights described above is absolute. However, any limitation of human rights to protect the public from acts of terrorism must be carefully crafted to ensure it is necessary and proportionate.


23. The High Commissioner also advised that for limitations of rights to be lawful, they must:

   - be prescribed by law
   - be necessary for public safety or public order, the protection of public health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others, and serve a legitimate purpose not impair the essence of the right
   - be interpreted strictly in favour of the rights at issue
   - be necessary in a democratic society
   - conform to the principle of proportionality
   - be appropriate to achieve their protective function, and be the least intrusive instrument amongst those which might achieve that protective function
   - be compatible with the objects and purposes of human rights treaties;
   - respect the principle of non-discrimination
   - not be arbitrarily applied.

24. The OHCHR has recently stated, in relation to the right to privacy:

   \[\text{[A]}\text{ ] limitation must be necessary for reaching a legitimate aim, as well as in proportion to the aim and the least intrusive option available. Moreover, the limitation placed on the right (an interference with privacy, for example, for the purposes of protecting national security or the right to life of others) must be shown to have some chance of achieving that goal. The onus is on the authorities seeking to limit the right to show that the limitation is connected to a legitimate aim. Furthermore, any limitation to the right … must not render the essence of the right meaningless and must be consistent with other human rights, including the prohibition of discrimination. Where the limitation does not meet these criteria, the limitation would be unlawful and/or the interference with the right to privacy would be arbitrary.}\]

25. These remarks apply equally to the limitation of other rights in the ICCPR, including articles 9 and 12.
26. Legislation may validly restrict human rights to protect national security, or to protect the human rights of other citizens, provided that the restrictions meet these requirements.

6 Stop, Search and Seize Powers

27. This section of the submission considers Division 3A of Part IAA of the Crimes Act (Stop, Search and Seize Powers). These provisions were inserted in the Crimes Act by the Anti-Terrorism Act (No. 2).

28. Division 3A of Part IAA of the Crimes Act creates special police stop, search and seizure powers which relate to terrorist acts and terrorism offences. Police officers are authorised to exercise these powers in ‘Commonwealth places’ if the officers reasonably suspect that a person might have just committed, be committing, or be about to commit a terrorist act. Officers may also exercise the powers in ‘prescribed security zones’. The Minister is empowered to declare that an area is a prescribed security zone if he or she considers that a declaration would assist:

(a) in preventing a terrorist act occurring; or
(b) in responding to a terrorist act that has occurred.

29. These powers involve restrictions on the freedom of movement (protected by article 12 of the ICCPR) and the right to privacy (protected by article 17 of the ICCPR).

30. In his 2011 annual report, then INSLM Bret Walker SC noted the following features of the Division 3A powers:

a. The powers are enlivened when a police officer ‘reasonably suspects’ that a person ‘might’ have just committed, be committing or be about to commit a terrorist act. That language introduces ‘another layer of permissible uncertainty’ that the former INSLM observed was ‘perhaps disquieting’.

b. The Minister has a very broad power to prescribe security zones that may in practice not be susceptible to meaningful review (particularly with respect to revoking a decision to prescribe a zone).

31. The Commission agrees with the former INSLM that the breadth of the expanded stop, search and seize powers is an issue of concern. The creation of broad policing powers that engage civil and political rights is not uncommon in the context of counter-terrorism legislation. In determining whether the Division 3A powers are a proportionate response to the legitimate need to protect public safety, the INSLM may wish to consider in the first instance whether there is sufficient evidence of their effective use. While it is sometimes argued that retaining a rarely-used criminal offence can be justified for the purpose of deterrence, there can be no such justification for retaining intrusive policing powers. If the INSLM receives evidence that these powers are rarely if ever used, this would appear to indicate that the extensive pre-
existing powers of stop, search and seize at the federal and state and territory level are sufficient to fulfil the important aim of preventing terror attacks.

32. In addition, the INSLM may also wish to consider the former INSLM’s concern regarding the lack of meaningful review of the Ministerial power to prescribe a security zone. The breadth of the Ministerial prescription power in Division 3A is not insignificant. It is unclear what matters a Minister will take into account in prescribing a security zone, or indeed to revoke a prescription. The concentration of unfettered power compares unfavourably, for example, when considering the detailed scrutiny a court undertakes in judicially reviewing administrative decision-making, where a specified range of detailed information about the decision-making process is considered. Accordingly, the INSLM may wish to again consider whether the exercise of ministerial power to prescribe security zones can be justified.

**Recommendation 1:** That the INSLM consider whether there is sufficient evidence to justify the continued retention of expanded legislative powers to stop, search and seize.

**Recommendation 2:** That the INSLM consider whether the retention of broad unfettered Ministerial powers to prescribe security zones can be justified.

7 Declared areas

33. This section of the submission considers offences relating to entering and remaining in ‘declared areas’ under Division 119 of Part 5.5 of the Criminal Code. In particular, this submission addresses ss 119.2 and 119.3 of the Criminal Code. The requirement for this review has its origin in a recommendation made by the PJCIS as a result of its inquiry into the Foreign Fighters Bill prior to its passage. In recommending that the declared areas provisions be inserted in the Criminal Code, but that they be made the subject of an early sunset date and review, including by the INSLM, the PJCIS stated:23

The Committee notes that ‘declared area’ offences of the kind proposed in the Bill do not exist in any comparable jurisdictions overseas. It will therefore be particularly important that the laws be reviewed at an appropriate time after their implementation to ensure they are operating as intended. The Committee considers that a reduction in the proposed sunset clause from 10 years to two years after the next Federal election would provide a more timely opportunity for the Parliament to review and consider amendments to the regime after an initial period of operation.

It is further recommended that this Committee be given the opportunity to conduct a public inquiry into the operation of the provisions, including the list of ‘legitimate purposes’, well before the legislation’s sunset. It would assist the Committee if this inquiry was informed by a review of the provisions by the INSLM, prior to its commencement.

34. The declared areas provisions in Division 119 of Part 5.5 of the Criminal Code were introduced by the Foreign Fighters Act and came into force on 1 December 2014.
35. Under s 119.3, the Foreign Affairs Minister may, by legislative instrument, declare an area if he or she is satisfied that a listed terrorist organisation is engaging in a hostile activity in that area of the foreign country. Declarations are subject to disallowance by the PJCIS, and in any event expire three years after they are made.

36. To date, two areas have been declared under s 119.3 of the Criminal Code, namely Al Raqqa Province in Syria and Mosul District in Iraq.

37. If a declaration is in force with respect to an area, section 119.2 makes it an offence for a person (if they are an Australian citizen, resident, visa holder, or under the protection of Australia) to enter or to remain in that area, unless they do so solely for a ‘legitimate’ purpose. Section 119.2(3) specifies a limited number of permissible purposes, namely:

(a) providing aid of a humanitarian nature;
(b) satisfying an obligation to appear before a court or other body exercising judicial power;
(c) performing an official duty for the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory;
(d) performing an official duty for the government of a foreign country or the government of part of a foreign country (including service in the armed forces of the government of a foreign country), where that performance would not be a violation of the law of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory;
(e) performing an official duty for the United Nations or an agency of the United Nations;
(f) making a news report of events in the area, where the person is working in a professional capacity as a journalist or is assisting another person working in a professional capacity as a journalist;
(g) making a bona fide visit to a family member;
(h) any other purpose prescribed by the regulations.

38. To date, no other purposes have been prescribed by the regulations within the scope of s 119.2(3)(h).

39. The offence of entering a declared area is punishable by imprisonment for 10 years. It is not necessary for a person to enter or remain in a particular area for the purposes of committing any further terrorist act or hostile activity. Criminal liability is established once the individual has entered a declared area, regardless of their intent in doing so, unless the individual can establish they entered the declared area for one of the permissible purposes in s 119.2(3).

40. When these provisions were introduced in the Foreign Fighters Bill, the Commission expressed concern at the following:

a. The provisions criminalise conduct that is not in itself wrongful or ‘inherently criminal’ in nature. Despite that fact, the offence attracts a very high penalty.
b. In making a declaration about an area, the Foreign Minister is not required to form a view about the extent of hostile activity that is occurring in a particular area. It would, at least in theory, be open to the Minister to make a declaration with respect to an area in which very little hostile activity was occurring.

c. The list of ‘legitimate’ purposes for travel to a declared area is very short. There are therefore likely to be many innocent reasons a person might wish to enter or remain in a declared area which do not fall within a recognised exception. Such purposes include visiting friends, transacting business, retrieving personal property or attending to personal or financial affairs.

d. The exception applies only if travel is ‘solely’ for a legitimate purpose specified in s 119.2(3) or the regulations. That requirement has the effect that a person who enters a declared area primarily for a purpose falling within a recognised exception (such as visiting a parent) but also with a secondary innocent purpose (such as attending a friend’s wedding), will commit an offence.

e. The explanatory memorandum prepared in relation to the Bill did not identify an adequate justification for the provisions. It stated that division 119 was designed to equip law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies with the tools to arrest, charge and prosecute those Australians who have committed serious offences, including associating with, fighting, or providing other support for terrorist organisations overseas. The Commission did not consider this explanation to justify criminalising entry into an area without having committed any other offence, or intending to perform any wrongful conduct.

f. The exception in s 119.2(3) places an evidential burden on an accused. Once a person is accused of entering or remaining in a declared area (or attempting to do so), it is necessary for them to adduce evidence that they were in a declared area solely for one or more specified legitimate purposes.

41. These concerns were expressed in the Commission’s submission to the PJCIS in relation to the Foreign Fighters Bill.

42. The Commission considers that it is likely to be difficult, if not impossible, to formulate in advance a comprehensive list of legitimate reasons for travel to a declared area. This will render persons who do not intend to undertake any inherently wrongful conduct liable to prosecution. To the extent it may be claimed that this outcome may be avoided by the Attorney-General withholding consent to the commencement or a particular prosecution, or to the Director of Public Prosecutions exercising a discretion not to prosecute, that is insufficient protection. Relying on executive discretion not to commence a prosecution cannot be a satisfactory protection against arbitrary interference with a human right. It is likely to have a chilling effect
on the enjoyment of the rights to freedom of movement and association: a reasonable person considering whether to undertake travel in these circumstances would be well advised not to travel if their sole protection against prosecution is an expectation of ministerial or prosecutorial discretion.

43. By potentially capturing a wide range of innocent conduct, and making that conduct subject to a severe criminal penalty, in the absence of a demonstrated compelling need the provisions are likely to impermissibly infringe the freedom of movement and a number of other human rights. The declared area provisions limit the freedom of movement (protected by article 12 of the ICCPR). They are also likely to limit various other human rights, for instance the right to family life (protected by article 23). As noted above, for a limitation on a human right to be justified it must be both necessary and proportionate to achieving a legitimate end.

44. The Commission urges the INSLM to scrutinise closely the following matters:

a. why ss 119.2 and 119.3 are said to be necessary, given the existence of ss 119.1 and 119.4 of the Criminal Code (which make in an offence to enter, or make preparations to enter, a foreign country with the intention of engaging in hostile activity)

b. any evidence said to support the claim that ss 119.2 and 119.3 are necessary to achieve a legitimate objective

c. whether the limits on the freedom of movement imposed by s 119.2 are proportionate to achieving any legitimate objective. In considering that question, the following matters may be relevant:

i. how many people are said to be affected by the provisions

ii. how many prosecutions have been commenced under the provisions, and the outcome of those prosecutions

iii. whether experience indicates that the list of legitimate purposes in s 119.2(3) is sufficient, or whether innocent conduct is being captured by s 119.2.

45. In the event that the INSLM is not satisfied that the declared area provisions are necessary and proportionate to achieving a legitimate end, the Commission recommends that they be repealed.

Recommendation 3: In the event that the INSLM is not satisfied that the declared area provisions are necessary and proportionate to achieving a legitimate end, he should recommend that they should be repealed.

46. In the event the INSLM is satisfied that the declared area provisions are necessary and proportionate to achieving a legitimate end, the Commission repeats the following recommendations, made to the PJCIS in relation to its inquiry into the Foreign Fighters Bill prior to its passage:
Recommendation 4: In the event that the INSLM is satisfied that the declared area provisions are necessary and proportionate and should not be repealed, s 119.3 should be amended so that the Minister may declare an area only if she is satisfied that a listed terrorist organisation is engaging in a hostile activity to a significant degree in that area;

Recommendation 5: In the event that the INSLM is satisfied that the declared area provisions are necessary and proportionate and should not be repealed, the exception contained in s 119.2(3) should be amended so that s 119.2(1) does not apply to a person if that person enters, or remains in, an area solely for a purpose or purposes not connected with engaging in hostile activities.

Recommendation 6: In the event that recommendation 5 is not accepted:

c. Detailed consideration be given to expanding the list of legitimate reasons for travel to declared zones in s 119.2(3) of the Criminal Code to include, for instance, visiting friends, transacting business, retrieving personal property and attending to personal or financial affairs. The list should be made as comprehensive as possible; and

d. Section 119.2 be amended so that it is a defence to a charge of entering or remaining in a declared zone if a person establishes they were in a country for a purpose other than engaging in a hostile activity.

8 Control Orders, Preventive Detention Orders and the High Risk Terrorist Offenders Act

47. This section of the submission considers Divisions 104 and 105 of Part 5.3 of the Criminal Code (which contain the control order and preventative detention order regimes), including the interoperability of the control order regime and the High Risk Terrorist Offenders Act.

48. As noted above, both the control order (CO) and preventative detention order (PDO) regimes were introduced into the Criminal Code by the Anti-Terrorism Act (No. 2)). Each was initially subject to a 10-year sunset provision. The relevant sunset dates were extended by the Foreign Fighters Act until 7 September 2018. That was to allow for a review of the operation of those provisions to be conducted, including the present review.28

49. Both the control order and preventative detention order regimes have been the subject of criticism. The Commission has previously expressed the view that these regimes:

- may allow for the arbitrary detention of individuals, contrary to article 9(1) of the ICCPR
may result in arbitrary interference with a number of other rights of those subjected to such orders, such as the right to privacy, and the rights to freedom of movement, expression and association (articles 17, 12, 19 and 22 of the ICCPR respectively)

- do not provide effective review procedures.  

50. Despite that fact, and the fact that the recommended reviews have not been completed, both the control order and the preventative detention order regimes have been extended or had thresholds lowered since the passage of the Foreign Fighters Act. Those amendments are discussed further below.

8.1 Preventative Detention Orders

51. Preventative Detention Orders are made under Division 105 of Part 5.3 of the Criminal Code.

52. The original stated object of the Commonwealth PDO regime was to enable police to detain a person for a ‘short period of time’ to prevent an imminent terrorist act occurring or to preserve evidence of, or relating to, a recent terrorist act. Commonwealth PDOs may be granted for a period of up to 48 hours. Separate State and Territory laws provide for similar orders involving preventative detention to be made. Those State and Territory orders can be made for up to 14 days.

53. Applications for PDOs are made by members of the Australian Federal Police (AFP). An initial PDO may be granted by a Senior AFP officer, and may be made for a period of time of up to 24 hours. A subsequent application for a further, ‘continuing’ PDO may be made to an issuing authority, who must be a judge or member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal authorised by the Minister under s 105.2(1) of the Criminal Code. The total length of time for which a person may be detained under a PDO issued under the Criminal Code is 48 hours. However, a person may be then be detained under a PDO issued under the various State or Territory statutes. As noted above, those corresponding State and Territory statutes provide for a longer maximum period of preventative detention – up to 14 days.

54. Commonwealth PDOs are not judicial orders; they are made by the executive. A judge acting as an issuing authority does so in their personal capacity.  

55. The PDO regime places very severe restrictions on the human rights of those subject to them. In particular, the PDO regime:

- Does not require the subject of a PDO to be informed of the reasons for their detention, impinging significantly on article 9(2) of the ICCPR. Applications for a PDO are made ex parte and key information supporting the PDO application may be withheld on national security grounds.
b. Does not allow for meaningful review of the merits of the issuance of a PDO by a competent judicial authority while the PDO remains in force. The subject of the PDO, therefore, has no meaningful opportunity to challenge their detention, contrary to article 9(4) of the ICCPR.

c. Arguably infringes the right to a fair trial in a suit at law, contrary to article 14(1) of the ICCPR. The subject of a PDO is, in effect, being restricted by punitive measures without ever having been convicted of a criminal offence. The opportunity to challenge the information supporting the order is restricted, if not impossible. The subject of a PDO also has limited opportunity to speak with a legal representative and such communication is not protected by legal professional privilege.

d. Imposes severe restrictions on the rights of the subject of a PDO to communicate with others, with the added possibility of a prohibited contact order preventing the subject from communicating with designated persons at all. These features of the regime severely limit the freedom of expression contained in article 19 of the ICCPR. Restrictions on communication also apply to PDO subjects who are under the age of 18.

56. The Commission made detailed submissions about the human rights implications of the PDO regime in its submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee in its inquiry into the Anti-Terrorism Bill (No 2) 2005.\(^{31}\)

57. The PDO regime is an extraordinary one. It allows for executive detention of individuals without charge, or contemplated charge. It is unconnected with the investigation of criminal conduct.

58. In his 2012 annual report, the former INSLM, Bret Walker SC, recommended that the preventative detention regime be repealed.\(^{32}\) In particular, he stated:

There is no demonstrated necessity for these extraordinary powers, particularly in light of the ability to arrest, charge and prosecute people suspected of involvement in terrorism. No concrete and practical examples of when a PDO would be necessary to protect the public from a terrorist act because police could not meet the threshold to arrest, charge and remand a person for a terrorism offence have been provided or imagined.

Police should instead rely on their established powers to take action against suspected criminals through the arrest, charge, prosecution and lengthy incarceration of suspected terrorists.\(^{33}\)

59. In 2013, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Review of Counter-Terrorism Legislation also recommended that the preventative detention order regime be repealed, finding that the provisions were unlikely to be used, and that the purposes of the PDO regime could be achieved ‘by traditional methods of arrest, interrogation and charge.’ Consequently, the PDO regime was ‘neither effective nor necessary.’\(^{34}\)
60. Despite these recommendations, in 2016 the threshold for applying for a PDO was reduced. Formerly, in the case of anticipated conduct, a member of the AFP could apply for a PDO, and an issuing authority could grant one, only if they were satisfied that there were reasonable grounds to suspect that a terrorist attack was ‘imminent.’ The Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2016 (Cth) removed the requirement for imminence, and replaced it with a requirement that the applicant and the issuing authority be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a person will carry out a terrorist attack that could occur, and is capable of being carried out within 14 days. (It remains a requirement that an issuing authority be satisfied that a PDO would substantially assist in preventing a terrorist attack).

61. The previous reviews by the former INSLM and the COAG Committee indicate that the PDO regime is not necessary or proportionate to achieving a legitimate objective. In the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary, the Commission recommends that it be repealed.

Recommendation 7: In the absence of compelling evidence that the provisions are necessary and proportionate to achieving a legitimate objective, Division 105 of Part 5.3 of the Criminal Code should be repealed.

8.2 Control Orders

62. Control orders may be granted under Division 104 of Part 5.3 of the Criminal Code.

63. Control orders allow obligations, prohibitions and restrictions to be imposed on a person in order to:
   a. protect the public from a terrorist act
   b. prevent the provision of support for or the facilitation of a terrorist act
   c. prevent the provision of support for or the facilitation of the engagement in a hostile activity in a foreign country.\(^{35}\)

64. The kinds of obligations, prohibitions and restrictions that can be imposed pursuant to a control order relate to:\(^ {36}\)
   a. the areas a person can go
   b. not travelling overseas
   c. curfews
   d. wearing a tracking device
   e. communicating or associating with particular people
   f. accessing certain telecommunications or technology (including the internet)
   g. possessing or using certain articles or substances
   h. carrying out specified activities (including working in particular jobs)
i. regular reporting  

j. being photographed  

k. having fingerprints taken  
l. participating in counselling or education.

65. Unlike PDOs, control orders are granted by certain courts. As at April 2016, 6 control orders had been granted.37

66. Interim control orders are granted by certain federal courts, and may be issued on behalf of the Commonwealth without the other party present. A control order is confirmed by a court following a civil hearing.

(a) **Human rights concerns**

67. Control orders may limit a number of human rights protected by the ICCPR. In particular:

   a. The conditions of a control order may amount to detention. That may raise questions about whether the prohibition on arbitrary detention in article 9(1) of the ICCPR is engaged

   b. Restrictions on association may interfere with the right to family life (protected by articles 17 and 23 of the ICCPR) and the right to freedom of association (protected by article 22 of the ICCPR)

   c. Warrants issued to monitor compliance with control orders will interfere with the right to privacy protected by article 17 of the ICCPR

   d. The ‘chilling effect’ of monitoring may interfere with the right to expression contained in article 19 of the ICCPR

   e. Restrictions on the material that may be made available to the respondent to control order proceedings may interfere with the right to fair trial protected by article 14(1) of the ICCPR

(b) **Previous review by former INSLMs and COAG Committee**

68. Former INSLM Bret Walker SC criticised the control order regime.38 In particular, he concluded that ‘control orders in their present form are not effective, not appropriate and not necessary’. The Monitor recommended that the provisions of Div 104 of Part 5.3 of the Criminal Code be repealed.39

69. The 2013 COAG Review of Counter-Terrorism Legislation concluded that the control order regime should be retained but with additional safeguards and protections included.40 Former INSLM, the Hon Roger Gyles AO QC, completed a review of the various 2013 COAG recommendations about the control order regime in January and April 2016.41 He recommended that a number of the COAG recommendations be implemented. The Commission does not again address these matters here. If the control order regime is retained, the Commission considers that the recommendations should be
implemented. The Commission notes that Mr Gyles expressly did not consider the question whether the control order regime should be abolished, leaving that question for the present review.\(^{42}\)

(c) Recent extensions of the control order regime

70. Despite the foregoing, and the fact that the recommended reviews of the control order regime (including the present review) are ongoing, that regime has been extended in a number of ways since the passage of the Foreign Fighters Act in 2014. In particular:

a. The grounds upon which a control order can be requested, issued or varied were expanded to include prevention of the provision of support or the facilitation of a terrorist act; or engagement in a hostile activity in a foreign country\(^{43}\)

b. The minimum age for the subject of a control order was lowered from 16 to 14\(^{44}\)

c. A suite of amendments were made to allow the grant of warrants to allow monitoring of persons subject to control orders. Those include the introduction of a new class of Monitoring Warrants under the Crimes Act, and amendments to the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979* (Cth) and the *Surveillance Devices Act 2004* (Cth). Once a control order has been granted, the threshold for the grant of these types of warrant is low. These provisions have greatly increased the intrusiveness of the grant of a control order on the privacy of its subject\(^{45}\)

d. Amendments to the *National Security Information (Criminal and Civil Proceedings) Act 2004* (Cth) allow for the use of intelligence material in control order proceedings without disclosing that material to the controlee\(^{46}\)

71. The recent amendments to the control order regime, including the new classes of warrant that may be issued to monitor compliance with control orders, have exacerbated the extent to which the grant of a control order will interfere with the human rights of its subject. In particular, the new warrant provisions will be particularly intrusive on the right to privacy of the subject of a control order and persons with whom they associate.

72. The Commission urges the INSLM to consider whether, in light of all available evidence, the control order regime is necessary and proportionate to the legitimate objective of reducing the risk to the Australian community posed by potential terrorist acts. In the absence of compelling evidence that the regime is necessary and proportionate to that goal, the Commission recommends that there be significant amendment to the control order regime to ensure Australia complies with its obligation under international human rights law to ensure that all counter-terror legislative measures are both necessary to achieve a legitimate aim and proportionate to achieving that aim. If the INSLM is of the view that the regime cannot be amended to
achieve human rights compliance, the control order regime should be repealed.

Recommendation 8: In the absence of compelling evidence that the control order regime is necessary and proportionate to preventing serious acts of terrorism, this regime should be amended to comply with international human rights law, paying particular regard to the aspects of the regime that engage the ICCPR rights identified at paragraphs 67 and 70 of this submission. If the INSLM considers the control order regime cannot be amended to ensure it complies with Australia’s international human rights obligations, the control order regime should be repealed.

8.3 The control order regime and the High Risk Terrorist Offenders Act.

73. The Commission understands that this Inquiry is considering the interoperability of the control order regime and the High Risk Terrorist Offenders Act.

74. If the INSLM were to find that the continuation of the control order regime is not justified, further inquiry into that issue would not be required. The following discussion therefore is predicated on the assumption that this Inquiry finds the maintenance of the control order regime in the Criminal Code is justified, in either its current or an amended form.

75. The High Risk Terrorist Offenders Act received Royal Assent on 7 December 2016. In the absence of any earlier proclamation, its operative provisions will come into effect on 7 June 2017.47

76. On commencement, the High Risk Terrorist Offenders Act will amend the Criminal Code to allow the continued detention of people convicted of a range of terrorism-related offences after the expiration of their sentences in circumstances where those people are assessed as posing an unacceptable risk to community safety and that risk cannot be managed in a less restrictive way. These provisions will be in new Division 105A of Part 5.3 of the Criminal Code.

77. The Commission has a number of concerns about whether continuing detention orders have been shown to be justified, including whether appropriate tools exist or can be developed to assess the risk posed by affected individuals with sufficient accuracy to demonstrate that continuing preventive detention after the conclusion of a criminal sentence is warranted.48

78. The Commission understands that the threshold question whether the High Risk Terrorist Offenders Act is itself justified is beyond the scope of the present inquiry, which is limited to the ‘interoperability’ of the control order regime with the High Risk Terrorist Offenders Act. Nevertheless, the interoperability questions that are the subject of this Inquiry cannot be answered properly without a full understanding of the practical and other difficulties that arise under the High Risk Terrorist Offenders Act. For
example, if the problems that have already been identified regarding the tools available to assess risk of further terrorist offending are not solved prior to the executive branch of government wishing to seek an order under that Act, there will be greater urgency to find alternative ways of reducing the relevant risk of terrorism.

79. The Commission prepared a detailed submission to the PJCIS in relation to its inquiry into the High Risk Terrorist Offenders Bill. As the Commission noted in that submission, continuing detention orders potentially engage the right not to be subject to arbitrary detention, protected by article 9(1) of the ICCPR.

80. Preventative detention may, in some circumstances, be justified, if it is demonstrated to be necessary and proportionate to achieving a legitimate objective. As the Commission observed in its submission to the PJCIS, for continuing detention to be free from arbitrariness it is necessary to demonstrate that there are no less restrictive means available to protect the public. This principle is recognised, if not perfectly implemented, in the High Risk Terrorist Offenders Act. Pursuant to s 105A.7(1) of the Criminal Code, a relevant court will only be able to make a continuing detention order if:

(b) … the Court is satisfied to a high degree of probability, on the basis of admissible evidence, that the offender poses an unacceptable risk of committing a serious Part 5.3 offence if the offender is released into the community; and

(c) the Court is satisfied that there is no other less restrictive measure that would be effective in preventing the unacceptable risk.

81. Where a person is assessed to pose an unacceptable risk of committing a serious Part 5.3 offence, that risk may be mitigated by the grant of a control order. While the conditions of a control order may in some cases amount to detention, a control order will still necessarily be a less restrictive measure than a continuing detention order. It is therefore likely that before a court can be satisfied that no other less restrictive measure would be effective in preventing a particular unacceptable risk, it will need to consider whether that risk could be addressed by the grant of a control order. However, continuing detention orders will be made by State or Territory Supreme Courts. Those courts do not have jurisdiction to issue control orders.

82. This will potentially place a judge hearing an application for a continuing detention order, who is satisfied that a person currently under sentence poses a significant risk of committing a further terrorism offence, in the invidious position of having to decide between making a continuing detention order, or dismissing an application (and therefore making no order to address the risk an individual may pose). It would then be a matter for the Commonwealth to commence a separate proceeding in an appropriate federal jurisdiction to seek a control order. That will potentially duplicate aspects of the initial proceedings.

83. It will almost certainly lead to inefficiency and additional burdens on any individual against whom an order is being sought as well as on the relevant
government authorities seeking such orders. If the national security or counter-terrorism risk that the government is seeking to avert is particularly urgent, this will also detract from the government’s ability to respond adequately to that urgency.

84. For these reasons, the Commission considers that a coherent regime should be established so that where an application is made for a continuing detention order, and the court considering the application considers that some less restrictive measure (including a control order) could adequately mitigate the relevant risk posed by an individual, the relevant court has jurisdiction to implement that less restrictive measure, or to transfer the proceedings to a more appropriate jurisdiction.

85. In its submission to the PJCIS in relation to the High Risk Terrorist Offenders Bill, the Commission made a number of recommendations addressing the manner in which the risk a person may pose to the community may be assessed.\textsuperscript{49} These recommendations were as follows.

\begin{itemize}
  \item[a.] That an expert’s report under s105A.6, relevant to a Continued Detention Order (CDO) being made, should include any limitations on the expert’s assessment of the risk of the offender committing a serious terrorism offence if released into the community, as well as the expert’s degree of confidence in that assessment.
  \item[b.] That an independent risk management body be established to, among other things, accredit individuals seeking to be appointed as ‘relevant experts’ for the purpose of CDO proceedings; development best-practice risk-assessment and risk-management processes, guidelines and standards; and provide education and training for risk assessors. As an alternative, the Commission recommended an office of Risk Management Monitor be established with similar functions.
\end{itemize}

86. In addition, the Commission recommends that consideration be given to amending the control order regime to allow for the use of these risk assessments in control order proceedings, both to assess whether it is appropriate that a control order be granted, and whether each obligation, prohibition or restriction sought in relation to a control order is justified.

\textbf{Recommendation 9:} Where an application is made for a continuing detention order, and the court considering the application believes a less restrictive measure (including a control order) could adequately mitigate the relevant risk posed by an individual, the relevant court should have jurisdiction to implement that less restrictive measure, or to transfer the proceedings to a more appropriate jurisdiction.

\begin{itemize}
\end{itemize}
7 Anti-Terrorism Act (No. 2) 2005 (Cth), Sch 5 Item 10 inserted Division 3A of Part IAA into the Crimes Act 1914 (Cth), Sch 4 Item 24 inserted ss 104.32 and 105.53 into The Criminal Code (Cth).
8 Anti-Terrorism Act (No. 2) 2005 (Cth), s 2.
9 Terrorism Act (No. 2) 2005 (Cth), Sch 3 item 24 cl 104.32 (CO), Sch 4 Item 24 cl 105.53 (PDO), Sch 5, Item 10, Cl 3UK
10 Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee, Provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Bill (No. 2) 2005 (November 2005) 9, [2.27].
11 For example, the Commission provided a written submission to the PJCJS review on 2 October 2014 and appeared at a hearing the next day.
12 Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Act 2014 (Cth), Sch 1 Item 131A.
13 The Criminal Code (Cth), s 119.2(6); Independent National Security Legislation Monitor Act 2010 (Cth) s 6(1B).
15 Commission on Human Rights, n 14 above.
16 Commission on Human Rights n 14 above
19 Crimes Act 1914 (Cth), s 3UB.
20 Crimes Act 1914 (Cth), s 3UJ.
25 Explanatory Memorandum to the Foreign Fighters Bill 2014 (Cth), p 139 [827].
27 Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, Advisory report on the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment (Foreign Fighters) Bill 2014 (October 2014), 104 [2.384].
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28 Prior to the sunset date of 7 September 2018, in addition to the INSLM review, under s 29(1)(bb) of the Intelligence Services Act 2001 (Cth) the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security has a function of review of Division 3A of Part IAA of the Crimes Act 1914 (Cth), Divisions 104 and 105 and section s119.2 and 119.3 of the Criminal Code.


30 Criminal Code (Cth), s 105.18.


35 Criminal Code (Cth), s 104.1.

36 Criminal Code (Cth), s 104.5(3).


43 Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2014 (Cth).

44 Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2016 (Cth).


46 Counter-Terrorism Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2016 (Cth).

47 Criminal Code Amendment (High Risk Terrorist Offenders) Act 2016 (Cth), Sch 2 Item 2.

48 Australian Human Rights Commission, Submission No 8 to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, Criminal Code Amendment (High Risk Terrorist Offenders) Bill 2016, 12