



STATEMENT

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SHADOW MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND BORDER
PROTECTION
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PROPOSED CITIZENSHIP CHANGES

Today, the Abbott Government announced it intends to amend the *Australian Citizenship Act* to revoke the citizenship of dual nationals who engage in terrorism.

Labor is open to any sensible change to the *Citizenship Act* that improves our current system.

Currently, the *Act* states that a person will have their citizenship revoked if they serve in the military of a nation at war with Australia.

It is clear the disturbing number of Australians joining groups such as Daesh pose a new threat that warrants a sensible update of our laws to reflect this.

Labor will carefully work through the detail of the proposed changes once legislation is made available by the Government.

It is critical we make sure any proposed changes to revoke citizenship have no unintended consequences.

Labor supported the Government's efforts last year to strengthen character and general visa cancellation provisions to ensure that non-citizens who commit crimes in Australia and pose a risk to the Australian community or represent an integrity concern are appropriately considered for visa refusal or cancellation.

Both Labor and Liberal Governments have cancelled people's passports on the advice of our security agencies.

It is illegal under Australian law for any person in Australia, or any Australian citizen, including dual citizens, to provide any kind of support to any armed group in Syria or Iraq.

Anyone who does should face the full force of the law.

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