

## DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS STATEMENT IN FULL

### Online extremism

- The Australia Government is committed to preventing violent extremism online. Through a nationally coordinated approach, led by the Department of Home Affairs, the Government has, and continues to, take steps to address the role that social media, encrypted communications and the dark web play in allowing online radicalisation and terrorist propaganda to flourish. This is achieved through legislative measures, content referral and working with industry to limit the appeal and access to extremist material online, while ensuring law enforcement and security agencies have the necessary, proportionate powers they require to protect the Australian community from this threat.
  
- The Department refers content to social media platforms for action against their terms of service policies, where that content:
  - o provides instructions to commit an offence associated with terrorism;
  
  - o is extremely graphic in nature; and/or
  
  - o expressly promotes or advocates violence against individuals or organisations.
  
- From 1 January 2020 to 31 July 2021, the Department referred 3481 pieces of such content to social media platforms.

### Social cohesion

- Keeping Australians together is a key priority of the Government and it is taking action to maintain Australia's social cohesion, particularly in the COVID-19 context. Australia's strong social cohesion underpins our prosperous and united society, and is a tangible reflection of our shared values, inclusive national identity and multicultural success.
  
- The Government utterly condemns racism and discrimination, which has no place in our prosperous, harmonious and inclusive society. Everyone in the Australian community, regardless of their religious, ethnic or cultural background, has a right to feel safe, respected and included in our successful multicultural society.

- The Government is continuing to invest heavily in Australia's social cohesion with \$63 million in the 2020-21 Budget for initiatives to keep Australians together by ensuring the values and institutions that unite us as Australians remain strong. We are promoting our inclusive national identity and shared liberal democratic values as the glue that holds us together as a nation.