



National Security – every detail helps

Every piece of information that we receive from members of the public today could be invaluable in keeping Australia safe from terrorism tomorrow. It is often the smallest details that make the biggest difference. So if you see or hear something that just doesn't feel right, please call the National Security Hotline and keep the information flowing.

What is the National Security Hotline?

The National Security Hotline (1800 1234 00) is a free phone number that connects you to the authorities to report possible terrorist activities in Australia. The Hotline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is important to keep the information flowing—every piece of information that we receive from members of the public today could be invaluable in keeping Australia safe from terrorism tomorrow.

What should be reported to the National Security Hotline?

Terrorists rely on surprise, which is why it will always be difficult to provide the public with a definitive list of possible signs of

terrorism. However, local and overseas experience has given us some possible warning signs to look out for. While Australian security agencies are working hard to help protect Australia from terrorism, members of the public can help complete the picture. This brochure gives just a few examples of things to look out for.

Unusual videotaping or photography of official buildings or other critical infrastructure

Videotaping is one of the ways terrorists gather information about a target. If you see someone using video, cameras, or phone cameras in a way that doesn't add up, (and they don't appear to be a tourist) then report it.

Suspicious vehicles near significant buildings or in busy public places

Terrorists use vehicles for many different purposes, from surveillance to planting bombs. Vehicles may be parked for an unusually long time, sometimes in no-parking areas. Explosives can be heavy, so cars and vans may sit abnormally low on their suspension. They may be out of registration, or have false or missing number plates.

Suspicious accommodation needs

Sometimes, people use, rent or buy accommodation in a suspicious way where they may be working to coordinate a terrorist attack. In the UK, a rented garage was turned into a bomb factory. A member of the public reported strange comings and goings of men wearing gloves, which led to the arrest of terrorists who had already attacked Heathrow Airport three times.

Unusual purchases of chemicals, explosives and protective equipment

Chemicals have been used in terrorist attacks throughout the world. These chemicals are commonly available in domestic, agricultural, veterinary, industrial and beauty products. If you see unusual purchases of chemicals and protective equipment, report them to the National Security Hotline.



Remember: it is often the smallest details that make the biggest difference. If you see or have knowledge of behaviour that concerns you, take note of as many details as you can. Details that can help authorities include: street addresses, dates, times, phone numbers, number plates and descriptions.