1. In response to recent events in Australia and overseas, governments around the world and within Australia are increasingly turning their attention to social cohesion as a mechanism to counter violent extremism (CVE). This approach recognises that legislative and policing work in the CVE area is more effective if complemented by community-based social cohesion strategies.
2. Compared with other countries, Australia has a remarkable degree of social cohesion given its diversity. Within Queensland, extremist and anti-social behaviour has been identified as a growing threat to community cohesion. Examples include the vandalism of mosques, the rise of right wing groups, and the political and ideological radicalisation of young people from a range of cultural backgrounds. Preventing feelings of marginalisation and social exclusion has been identified as an important element in the continuum of responses that counter violent extremism.
3. In the 2015-16 Budget, the Queensland Government allocated $5 million over three years for a taskforce to counter violent extremism in Queensland. The Taskforce will deliver a co-ordinated whole of government approach to promote and build social cohesion.
4. Cabinet approved the Terms of Reference for the Queensland Social Cohesion Taskforce.
5. Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr Scott Stewart MP, Member for Townsville as chairperson of the Queensland Social Cohesion Implementation Committee.
6. Cabinet approved implementation of the Queensland Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Referral Program.
7. *Attachments*
* [Terms of Reference for the Queensland Social Cohesion Implementation Committee](Attachments/Terms%20of%20Reference.PDF)