



Teachers on terror frontline

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SCHOOLTEACHERS will be given access to radicalisation information awareness kits explaining how to identify students at risk and what they should do to intervene as concerns grow about the rise of teen terrorists.

The kits will contain detailed information on understanding the signs of someone who is being radicalised, what

radicalisation is, the role of the internet and whom to contact if they suspect a student may be at risk.

Major education agencies will also conduct a review on what initiatives are in place and what needs to be done to help youths at risk of being brainwashed by terror groups.

A number of education department officials will be trained in the area to provide support to schools.

State education ministers across the nation were told via

a phone hook-up with Counter Terrorism Minister Michael Keenan and then-Education Minister Christopher Pyne on Friday that hard copies of the kits, which will also be put on-

line, will be made available to schools.

Concerns about school-aged children being groomed by Islamic State operatives were raised at the Federal Education Council in May.

A letter sent to education ministers, by the Federal Government, explained the rising

concerns: "The increasing proliferation and sophistication of extremist propaganda targeting Australian youth, coupled with active recruitment by violent extremist groups is resulting in the radicalisation of increasingly young Australians including school-age individuals," it said.

Justice Minister Michael Keenan said it was clear students were at risk and the community needed to be proactive.

"We cannot afford to wait until people have already radi-

calised and turned to violence," he said. "We must reduce the risk of violent extremism by intervening early and tackling the root of the problem."

Mr Keenan said school communities were critical in preventing radicalisation.

"A vital part of our approach to countering violent extremism is to ensure we di-

vert people away from ideologies of hatred and violence before law enforcement response is needed," he said.

"School communities are therefore an important part of our efforts."

Earlier this month Australian Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin revealed up to 10 "school aged children" were placed into government deradicalisation programs because it was feared they were considering trips to the Middle East to take up arms alongside jihadists. It is believed the biggest concern about students being target in by terrorists stems in western Sydney.