

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2023-24 Budget Estimates Hearings

Portfolio:	Crime Prevention
Witness:	Minister for Police, Anthony Carbines MP
Committee Member:	Ellen Sandell
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Relevant text (from transcript):

Ellen SANDELL: I will take you to budget paper 3, page 82, now around early intervention to counter violent extremism. Can we just confirm you were talking about concrete bollards in the CBD? We have got \$1.8 million and then \$1.7 million in 2024–25 and then nothing beyond that. Is that primarily for bollards, or is any of that actually around the countering violent extremism programs?

Anthony CARBINES: It is, yes, and I suppose part of what I would say is there has been a capital component, but the \$3.52 million in the budget over the next two years –

Ellen SANDELL: Sorry, is some of that capital? Is some of that \$3.5 million capital or not?

Anthony CARBINES: Ongoing now? No. We have done an element of the capital work. What we really want to use that money for is organisations, like continuing work with the Northern Community Support Group, which you would be familiar with, and also organisations like the Australian Multicultural Foundation and others, to auspice them. That is where –

Ellen SANDELL: So none of this is capital works, this \$1.8 million and \$1.7 million.

Anthony CARBINES: I can check, but I thought that we had largely concluded the capital works and keeping the programs going is really our goal here.

Ellen SANDELL: So then why is there nothing committed beyond 2024–25 for those programs, and do any of those programs actually include the far right and neo-Nazis – countering that kind of extremism?

Answer:

The early intervention to countering violent extremism funding in the 2023-2024 budget does not relate to capital works.

The early intervention to counter violent extremism funding is provided to continue the work of initiatives including the Northern Community Support Group and the Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies, which informs countering violent extremism policy and practice with the latest research findings.

The government has already banned the display of symbols of Nazi ideology and is considering options to also ban the Nazi salute. The government remains committed to strengthening vilification protections more generally while ensuring compatibility with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. This work is being led by the Attorney-General.