MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW NATIONAL SECURITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Attorney-General Robert McClelland today announced the start of a new advertising campaign to promote the National Security Hotline over the next month.

Mr McClelland said the National Security Hotline has proven extremely valuable in tracking potential terrorist threats since it was established in December 2002.

“Since the Hotline was established, it has logged more than 158,000 calls, faxes, letters and emails,” he said.

“The Hotline has become an integral part of Australia’s national counter-terrorism arrangements and is regarded as essential by police forces and ASIO.

“Since the Hotline was established in 2002, 38 people have been charged with terrorism offences in Australia.

“Information obtained through the National Security Hotline has been instrumental in the majority of these investigations – whether it was the original tip-off or further information that was used as evidence in court.

“In addition, a significant number of reports have either contributed to existing investigations or have initiated new investigations.

“This proves the value in having a hotline for Australians to potential terrorist activity.

“This burst of advertising is designed to remind people to be alert to any suspicious activity and to report anything usual.”

Mr McClelland said while it’s important the community is aware no specific threats have been received, people need to be conscious of the potential for a terrorist attack to occur.

“We need to ensure people are reminded of where to report suspicious behaviour if they observe something unusual, which is why we’re undertaking this additional advertising,” he said.

“The National Terrorism Alert Level remains at Medium, which means a terrorist attack could occur. It has been at this level since 2001.”

To report information to the National Security Hotline, phone **1800 123 400** 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Information can be reported anonymously. The advertising will run from today until Saturday 8 October 2011.

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