

Event/Organisation Backgrounder

Event: Remembrance of the Armenian 'genocide'

The event commemorates a period during the end of the Ottoman Empire in 1915 that resulted in the deaths of Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians. Historically, this was considered to have commenced on 24 April 1915, the day when Ottoman authorities arrested some 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople who were later deported. **S33 - National Security**
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The Turkish Government acknowledges that large numbers of people died during this period but vigorously denies that this was the result of a deliberate attempt at genocide.

Organisation: Armenian National Committee of Australia

Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC Aust) is the public affairs and lobby group for Armenian Australians, with headquarters in Sydney. It is highly regarded by Armenian Australians. ANC Aust has hosted annual commemorative activities for the Armenian 'genocide' for many years and has also campaigned for Australian Government recognition of the events in 1915 as the Armenian 'genocide'. This has included meetings with previous portfolio parliamentary secretaries including more recently, Sen the Hon Kate Lundy in March 2011, and the Hon Mr Laurie Ferguson MP in March 2010 and November 2009.

Sensitivities and impact

This issue has not impaired long-standing and ongoing engagement between the Armenian community and federal and state political leaders.

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