



Australian Government

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation



Statement from the Director-General of Security, Mike Burgess

24 November 2019

Foreign Interference

The reporting on Nine's *Sixty Minutes* contains allegations that ASIO takes seriously.

As the Director-General of Security, I am committed to protecting Australia's democracy and sovereignty.

Australians can be reassured that ASIO was previously aware of matters that have been reported today, and has been actively investigating them.

However, in accordance with long-standing practice, I will not comment on this particular operational matter, including any detail of the individuals involved. Given that the matter in question is subject to a coronial inquiry, and as not to prejudice our investigations, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Hostile foreign intelligence activity continues to pose a real threat to our nation and its security. ASIO will continue to confront and counter foreign interference and espionage in Australia.