

LEXICON

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)	<p>A developmental disability that affects how people behave and interact with the world around them. It may be mild, moderate or severe. The main features of autism are difficulty in social interactions and communication, and restricted and repetitive behaviours and interests.</p> <p>The umbrella term 'autism spectrum disorder' (ASD) describes all levels of autism, from those individuals requiring support (level 1), those requiring substantial support (level 2) and those more severely affected and requiring very substantial support (level 3)¹.</p>
COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (CVE)	<p>Activities that seek to prevent individuals becoming or remaining violent extremists, and address the social impacts of violent extremism.</p>
CVE DIVERSION / INTERVENTION	<p>Activities and associated processes that seek to reduce the risk of individuals becoming violent extremists, including through the provision of tailored support services.</p>
DERADICALISATION	<p>The process of <u>psychological</u> change as a result of which an individual no longer accepts the use of unlawful violence (by themselves or others) as a means of pursuing their political, ideological or religious goals.</p>
DISENGAGEMENT FROM VIOLENT EXTREMISM	<p>The process of <u>behavioural</u> change where an individual's involvement in violent extremist activities (including providing material support) reduces and/or ceases.</p>
EROTOMANIA	<p>A delusional conviction of being loved despite the supposed lover having done nothing to encourage or sustain that belief and, on the contrary, having made clear their lack of interest.</p>
FIXATED THREAT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT	<p>Fixated threat assessment and management examines fixated persons who engage in intrusive behaviours towards public figures. Such individuals pose a risk of serious harm to public figures, their staff, the community and the fixated person themselves.</p> <p>Agencies mitigate risk through the identification of fixated persons, many of whom are mentally ill, the facilitation of mental health care and management of other risk factors.</p>
FIXATED THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTRE (FTAC)	<p>FTACs were established in response to attacks by individuals with pathological fixations and grievances, some of which have extremist themes. These individuals commonly share vulnerabilities including untreated mental illness.</p> <p>Jointly staffed by mental health practitioners and police, FTACs are designed to optimise threat assessments and management plans for higher risk individuals, preventing adverse outcomes.</p> <p>Relevant information is shared between FTAC staff under ethical information sharing protocols.</p> <p>Fixated threat assessment capability has been established in all Australian states and territories and in New Zealand.</p>

¹ <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/autism>

<p>FIXATION (Latin <i>figo</i>: to be bound fast)</p>	<p>Fixation can be a normal phenomenon, as in the behaviours of fans and collectors. Pathological, abnormal or morbid fixation refers to <i>obsessive preoccupation with a person or a cause, pursued to an excessive or irrational degree</i>. A 'cause' is an intensely personal and idiosyncratic grievance or quest for justice.</p>
<p>LONE ACTOR GRIEVANCE-FUELLED VIOLENCE</p>	<p>Violent acts perpetrated by lone actors with an underpinning sense of injustice, loss, injury or victimisation. It includes terrorist attacks, hate killings, apolitical mass murders in schools and institutions, and workplace killings by lone actors.</p>
<p>LONE ACTOR TERRORIST</p>	<p>An individual, or a closely linked pair, who plans to, or does, conduct anti-social activity for political or religious motives or to advance some personal cause. They typically, but not always, use violence, but can also perform acts of sabotage, espionage, hoaxes or other forms of civil disruption. At the time the action is performed, they act alone, without real-world accomplices, but they may be directed (recruited and tasked), enabled or inspired by the wider terrorist organisation or network.</p>
<p>MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS</p>	<p>The individual presents with apparent disturbance in cognition, emotions, or behaviour that may reflect a dysfunction in the psychological, biological, or developmental processes underlying mental functioning. Mental health issues are commonly associated with significant distress or disability in social, occupational, or other important activities.</p>
<p>OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER (OCD)</p>	<p>OCD is an anxiety disorder. People living with OCD are troubled by recurring unwanted thoughts, images, or impulses, as well as obsessions and repetitive rituals. People with OCD are usually aware that their symptoms are irrational and excessive, but they find the obsessions uncontrollable and the compulsions impossible to resist.²</p>
<p>RADICALISATION TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM (RADICALISATION)</p>	<p>The <u>process</u> by which individuals come to accept the unlawful use of violence, or support the use of unlawful violence by others, as a legitimate means of pursuing their political, ideological or religious goals.</p>
<p>TERRORISM</p>	<p>Terrorism, or a terrorist act, is defined within the <i>Criminal Code Act 1995</i> as 'an act, or threat to commit an act, that is done with the intention to coerce or influence the public or any government by intimidation to advance a political, religious or ideological cause, and the act causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • death, serious harm or endangers a person; • serious damage to property; • a serious risk to the health or safety of the public, or • seriously interferes with, disrupts or destroys critical infrastructure such as telecommunications or electricity network. <p>A terrorist act does not cover engaging in advocacy, protest, dissent or industrial action where a person does not have the intention to urge force or violence or cause harm to others. If found guilty of committing a terrorist act, a person could face up to life imprisonment.</p>

² <https://www.sane.org/information-stories/facts-and-guides/obsessive-compulsive-disorder>

<p>VIOLENT EXTREMISM</p>	<p>A willingness to use unlawful violence, or support the use of unlawful violence by others, to promote a political, ideological or religious goal. It includes a willingness to use or support terrorism, other forms of politically motivated violence (e.g. violent protests) and some forms of communal violence (e.g. racially motivated assaults).</p>
<p>VULNERABLE/VULNERABILITY</p>	<p>The diminished capacity of an individual or group to anticipate, cope with or resist and recover from the impact of a stressor. A vulnerability does not indicate an individual's propensity to violence. Vulnerabilities can affect an individual's mobilisation to commit violence – these vulnerabilities are many and varied. Vulnerabilities can include (but are not limited to) mental health issues, social isolation, domestic violence, substance abuse and criminal activity.</p>

Open source reference materials

There are many open source reference materials, relating to specific terminology and symbols, available online. Below is a small sample of resources, which may be of interest:

- [Anti-Defamation League](#)
- [Al Jazeera Media Network](#)
- [UK Centre of Research and Evidence on Security Threats \(CREST\)](#)
- [Radicalisation Research organisation \(funded by CREST\)](#)