

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Question No. 103

Senator Trood asked the following question at the hearing on 22 February 2011:

The Australian reported on 15 January 2011 that, according to Sheik Taj Din al-Hilali, radicalism in the Australian Muslim community is on the rise and one reason for this was 'overseas preachers', over whom he said there was 'no control'.

- A. How many foreign individuals who intended to preach to the Muslim community has the government permitted to visit Australia over the past two years?
- B. What factors does the government take into account before allowing such individuals entry to Australia?
- C. Has the government ever refused entry to any such applicants?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) is the appropriate agency to comment on visa issue. Any person applying for a visa to travel to, or remain in, Australia may have the application referred by DIAC to ASIO for a Security Assessment. A risk-managed referral framework is in place so that applications likely to be of concern are drawn to ASIO's attention.

Visa applications are referred to ASIO for assessment by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship based on whether they match specific criteria. The criteria are classified for operational reasons.