

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

Question No. 104

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

British Prime Minister Cameron has committed his government to banning preachers of hate from visiting the UK.

- A. Is the Australian government also committed to banning preachers of hate from visiting Australia?
- B. In what circumstances when foreign individuals plan to visit Australia for political reasons does the government refuse to grant entry?

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 regulating the entry of foreigners into Australia. Any person applying for a visa to travel to 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.