



Response to Questions on Notice in relation to the PJCIS inquiry into extremist movements and radicalism in Australia

11 May 2021

On 29 April 2021, during ASIO's appearance at the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) public hearing on extremist movements and radicalism in Australia, ASIO took on notice a number of questions. Responses to those questions are below.

Question 1 (Senator Keneally)

I am particularly interested in the views of right-wing extremists in relation to democracy. What I understand from the reading and work that I've done, they're not big fans of democracy are they? They are seeking to overthrow the democratic systems of our country. And replaced with what type of system? Fascist? Dictatorial?

- Nationalist and racist violent extremists are motivated by a range of issues. Some of these groups perceive democracy as flawed and failing. They continue to prepare for societal collapse and a race war.

Question 2 (Senator Keneally)

Given that one of our terms of reference is to consider the motivations of extremist groups, what right wing messages are particularly resonating with Australians?

- There are a range of issues influencing extremist groups. In the ideologically motivated violent extremist area we remain particularly focussed on the promotion of violence in support of a nationalist and/or racist violent extremist narrative.

Question 3 (Dr Aly)

In your submission, you mentioned since 2016 there have been two major disruptions of ideologically motivated extremist threat and that disruptions of these sort have been just one aspect of the broad range of activities that is keeping Australians safe from these threats. Can you talk a little bit about what those two major disruptions were if you're able to?

- On 14 and 15 March 2020 the New South Wales Joint Counter-Terrorism Team arrested two individuals on the New South Wales south coast. They have both been charged with acts in preparation for, or planning a terrorist act. The matter remains before the Courts.

- On 6 August 2016 Phillip Galea was arrested in Victoria and charged with collecting or making documents likely to facilitate a terrorist attack and planning or preparing a terrorist attack . He was convicted and sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Question 4 (Senator Fawcett)

In paragraph 5 of your submission you talk about the 19 major counter-terrorism disruptions and you describe two relating to ideologically motivated extremism. You also mention nine attacks in that. Can you just confirm that all nine of those attacks related to Islamic terrorism as opposed to any other form of extremism?

- All nine attacks referred to in Paragraph 5 of ASIO's submission relate to religiously motivated violent extremists who were Sunni violent extremists.