

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Program: Australian Federal Police

Question No. SBE16/013

Senator Reynolds asked the following question at the hearing on 17 October 2016:

Senator REYNOLDS: Can you give the committee some idea of how many young people you are aware of at the moment, and their age ranges, who have been radicalised to the point of concern?

Mr Phelan: That would be a difficult question. I could not really give you a definitive answer on that.

Senator REYNOLDS: Are you able to give us an update on prosecutions and cases that are under way at the moment?

Mr Phelan: In relation to children, or generally?

Senator REYNOLDS: Under 18s and then more broadly.

Mr Phelan: Components of that I will have to take on notice. I can certainly do that. Since 2012 we have charged 51 people with counter-terrorism offences across the country as a result of 21 separate operations. The breakdown of those who are juveniles, I will have to get for you and take on notice.

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

As at 17 October 2016, of the 51 people who have been charged with counter-terrorism offences since 2012, seven were individuals under the age of 18 as at the time of being charged (two were 15 years of age; three were 16 years of age; and two were 17 years of age).

As all these matters are currently ongoing before the courts, it is inappropriate to comment further.