

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Treasury Portfolio**  
Budget Estimates  
2017 - 2018

**Division/Agency:** Australian Bureau of Statistics  
**Question No:** 28  
**Topic:** Census Data - Religions  
**Reference:** Written  
**Senator:** Roberts, Malcolm

**Question:**

Is Islam one of the fastest growing religions in Australia?

**Answer:**

The top five fastest growing religions as determined by proportional increase were:

<b>Religion</b>	<b>% increase from 2011</b>
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	126%
Chaldean Catholic	102%
Sikhism	74%
Hinduism	60%
Syrian Orthodox Church	59%

Islam was the 8<sup>th</sup> fastest growing religion in Australia between August 2011 and August 2016, as reported in the 2011 and 2016 Censuses.

The proportion of the total Australian population who reported being affiliated with Islam grew by 27% between 2011 and 2016.

By count of population, Islam increased by 127,950 people between 2011 and 2016. Hinduism had a larger population increase, growing by 164,765 people over the same time period.

The largest change in response to the question on religion was an increase by 2,240,547 of the number of people reporting 'No religion'. This was an increase of 48% since 2011.

Islam was reported by 604,240 people, or 2.6% of the Australian population in the 2016 Census. This was an increase from 476,290, or 2.2% of the Australian population in the 2011 Census.

Notes for analysis:

1. Religions have been examined at the Religious Group level
2. Only religions which were reported by more than 5,000 people in 2016 have been included for this summary

3. Religions which were separately identified for the first time in 2016 were excluded from the analysis where it was not possible to determine the 2011 figure
4. 'Not further defined' religions were excluded from the analysis
5. 'No religion' listed above are the records classified as 'No religion, so described'. This category was excluded from the ordering of growth in religions as it was not considered a religion for this analysis.