

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017**

**Australian Security Intelligence Organisation**

**Question No. BE17-112**

**Senator Hanson asked the following question on 2 June 2017:**

(a) In an Essential Survey reported in September 2016, 49% of respondents wanted a ban on further immigration from Islamic countries and cited terrorism as one of three reasons. The Holsworthy Barrack Attack, the Sydney Hostage Crisis at the Lindt cafe and 2015 Parramatta Shooting (and further unknown number of attacks foiled by the police) all related to the children of refugees. How many attacks foiled by ASIO/police involve refugees or their children? How many attacks foiled by ASIO/police involve the second generation of people who settled here under the points system? In which countries did the parents come from?

**The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

Of the 13 major disruption operations in relation to imminent attack planning in Australia since 12 September 2014 (when the threat level was raised), three were planned by groups which included one or more individuals who had come to Australia as refugees.

With respect to your queries regarding the children of refugees, ASIO does not hold complete data sets in relation to this question. This reflects the fact that where an individual has been identified as having been radicalised in Australia, their migration path is generally not relevant to the security matters considered by ASIO. In a small number of cases, the dated nature of Australian migration records may also mean this information is difficult to obtain.

In terms of the longer-term threats ASIO is observing, the vast majority of those who arrived as refugees and were involved in attacks since 2002, arrived as children and have spent more time in Australia than anywhere else. On average, involvement in an attack, disruption or prosecution occurred 12 years after arrival in Australia and 9 years after citizenship was granted. We have identified no correlation between the migration pathway of individuals involved in activities of security interest and their subsequent involvement in onshore terrorism-related activity since 2002.