

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

Program: Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

Question No. AE17/027

Senator Macdonald asked the following question at the hearing on 28 February 2017:

CHAIR: I will call Senator Xenophon, but can I just clarify something you just said. You specifically mentioned Sunni Islamic extremists. Would you have statistics that would tell me, of those following the Islamic faith in Australia, how many are Sunni and how many are Shiah?

Mr Lewis: I am sure there are statistics publicly available.

CHAIR: Do you have them?

Mr Lewis: I do not have it off the top of my head, but it would be available publicly.

CHAIR: Perhaps on notice you might just let the committee know that.

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

ASIO does not hold precise figures associated with the overall proportion of Shia and Sunni Islam followings in Australia. Consistent with estimated global trends, the majority of Australian Muslims would be Sunni.