Fertile Question: What does it mean to be a religious citizen in a multi-faith world?

Core Content Area 2: Religious citizenship in Asia and beyond

TOPIC 2.3: Religious states

Extending Knowledge: Religious freedom and Sharia law

In this lesson students will investigate Sharia law in Australia and its impact on religious freedom.

For students to investigate Sharia law in Australia and its impact on religious freedom, complete the following activities:

1. In pairs or small groups, investigate news articles from the Australian media that have presented a particular perspective on Sharia law.


a. Compare two of the articles or clips and work in small groups to discuss the following questions:

   Why you think the differences in viewpoint might occur in Australian society today?

   How might people who are not Islamic view Sharia law?

   What do the articles suggest are the positive and negative aspects of adopting Sharia law in Australian society?

   What do you believe the place of Sharia law is in a ‘secular’ country such as Australia?