



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Our ref: HumanRightsJEvk:930583

29 January 2015

Ms Sophie Dunstone
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Dunstone,

Inquiry into the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor (Improved Oversight and Resourcing) Bill 2014

Thank you for the invitation to provide a submission into this inquiry. I write to you on behalf of the Human Rights Committee of the Law Society of NSW ("Committee"), which is responsible for considering and monitoring Australia's obligations under international law in respect of human rights; considering reform proposals and draft legislation with respect to issues of human rights; and advising the Law Society accordingly.

The Committee supports the passage of the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor (Improved Oversight and Resourcing) Bill 2014 (the "Bill"). The Committee considers the amendments proposed by the Bill to the *Independent National Security Legislation Monitor Act 2010* to provide timely, necessary and practical safeguards.

The Committee particularly supports the introduction of provisions to allow the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor ("INSLM") to review proposed laws. The Committee submits that this would have assisted the legislative scrutiny processes in relation to the recent tranches of national security legislation, given the very short time frames that were available for public consultation.

The Committee also particularly supports the provisions that would allow the Australian Human Rights Commission to refer matters to the INSLM for review. The Committee's view is that this would provide the INSLM and his/her office with some additional capacity to monitor what are often lengthy and complex pieces of legislation, sometimes with significant impact on the rights of people in Australia.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,

John Eades/
President

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