



Police Federation  
of Australia

The National Voice of Policing

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The Secretary  
Parliamentary Joint Committee on  
Intelligence and Security  
[PJCIS@aph.gov.au](mailto:PJCIS@aph.gov.au)

### **Review of the Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Bill 2018**

The Police Federation of Australia (PFA), representing the professional and industrial interests of our 62,000 members at the national level, supports the Bill.

In support of our position we make the following comments -

- Such legislation is required by police to assist our members working in today's complex digital environment and to access information vital to Australia's national security;
- Technologies such as encryption, whilst an important part of Australian's everyday life, are also being used by serious and organized criminals as well as terrorists;
- The Bill provides a series of options in a graduated manner for police to be assisted by industry, including –
  - Voluntary mechanisms to assist companies to provide, assistance; and
  - new 'technical capability notices,' that can require providers to build limited capabilities to help law enforcement.

An important part of the bill for police and other agencies includes the establishment of new computer access warrants enhancing existing search and seizure powers.

The PFA is advised that like obligations already exist on domestic communications companies, this Bill simply expands those obligations to off shore providers, who are providing communication services in Australia.

We have also been provided with a range of statistical information from police and other agencies which indicate that -

- some 95% of Australia's most dangerous CT targets use encrypted communications, and
- 90% of the data being lawfully intercepted by the AFP uses some form of encryption

It is estimated that by 2020 all communications among organized crime groups and terrorists will be encrypted

We also understand that the Bill has been through a comprehensive consultation process with industry, both domestic and international.

For the above reasons the PFA supports the Bill and would be happy to appear at an Inquiry if that was deemed necessary.

Scott Weber  
Chief Executive Officer