



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

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Telecommunications security bill to be reviewed

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) has commenced an inquiry into the Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, which was introduced into the Parliament on 9 November 2016.

The Bill amends the *Telecommunications Act 1997* to introduce a regulatory framework that is intended to better manage national security risks of unauthorised access to, and interference with, telecommunications networks and facilities.

The Bill will place obligations on telecommunications carriers, carriage service providers and carriage service intermediaries to protect networks and facilities to ensure the confidentiality of communications and information, as well as to ensure the availability and integrity of networks and facilities. This security obligation will be supported by a requirement for industry to provide information to government, powers of direction and a penalty regime to encourage compliance.

The PJCIS has previously recommended telecommunications sector security reforms in its June 2013 [Report of the Inquiry into Potential Reforms of Australia's National Security Legislation](#) and its February 2015 [Advisory Report on the Telecommunications \(Interception and Access\) Amendment \(Data Retention\) Bill 2014](#).

The Committee invites written submissions to the inquiry to be received no later than **Friday, 3 February 2017**. Information on how to make a submission is available on the Committee's [website](#).

To assist with the planning of public hearings, submitters are asked to provide early notification of their intention to submit by email to pjcis@aph.gov.au.

The Committee intends to present its report in April 2017.

Further information about the inquiry can be accessed via the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/pjcis>. The Bill and Explanatory Memorandum can be accessed via http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation.

Prior the current review, two exposure drafts of the proposed legislation were subject to Government consultation processes. Submissions to the previous consultations, as well as draft administrative guidelines for the scheme, are available from the Attorney-General's Department at <https://www.ag.gov.au/telcosecurity>.

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