

To the committee,

Australia has become the silly child in the corner of the sand pit begging the bad guys or the big kids to look at us when it comes to terrorism and these laws in their entirety need to be scrapped and we need to revert to simple criminal laws that already existed.

As a case in point the people in Melbourne did not do anything except talk and most of it was bluster and nonsense. Meanwhile there are about 20 million potential vehicle bombs on our roads and government and the opposition actively encourage more of them and taxpayers continually bail out the companies who make them.

Many women are raped every year and I would call that being terrorised yet Australia has been silent on the law passed in lawless Afghanistan which allows for the rape and starvation of a wife who will not say yes, little girls are setting themselves on fire after being sold to old men and women are murdered if they become Parliamentarians or police in Afghanistan.

Yet we don't lock up all men.

In fact the only time in this country we lock up people we know will never be charged with any crime are refugees seeking our protection and there is absolutely no limit on the time they can be detained in prison conditions without lawyers or any legal rights to challenge their detention. Surely that is terrorism?

In Australia since September 11, 2001 Australia has squandered \$3 billion or more to lock up a few thousand refugees.

\$20 billion on police and ASIO and other security agencies for terrorism yet only 32 people have ever been arrested, 19 charged and 10 "convicted" who are almost all appealing.

The cases have been almost all major scandals like Dr Haneef and Dr Al Haque where kidnapping and setting up of innocent people has occurred by the very same people the government now wants to extend powers to.

133,000 people or thereabouts die in Australia every year. That is over 1.06 million have died since the attacks on the US yet not one person has had even a finger nail broken by a muslim or any other kind of terrorist in our \$20 billion scandal of wanting to be noticed.

Of course if anyone ever does attack us they don't need to buy paint thinners (they are painters), or nail polish remover – there are 20 million vehicles and petrol available on every street corner of every city.

Marilyn Shepherd