



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

Review of the Telecommunication and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Bill 2018

Issue date: 21 September 2018

Review of the Telecommunication and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Bill 2018.

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) has commenced a review of the Telecommunication and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Bill 2018. The Bill was introduced into the House of Representatives on 20 September 2018 and referred to the Committee for inquiry and report by the Attorney-General.

The PJCIS Chair, Mr Andrew Hastie MP, said:

Australian national security and law enforcement agencies are facing increasing difficulties in accessing encrypted communications that mask a variety of illegal activities.

The Bill provides national security and law enforcement agencies with powers to respond to the challenges posed by the increasing use of encrypted communications and devices.

In its inquiry, the Committee will consider and review the provisions of the Bill. In addition the Committee will examine safeguards and limitations in the Bill that are intended to ensure that communications providers cannot be compelled to build systemic weaknesses or vulnerabilities into their products that undermine the security of communications.

The Committee is currently accepting submissions to this review. Submissions should be provided no later than **12pm, Friday, 12 October 2018**. If you intend to make a submission, please contact the Secretariat at TOLAbill@aph.gov.au by Tuesday 2 October to assist with planning. Hearings are expected to be held on Friday 19 October 2018.

Further information on the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's [website](#).

Media enquiries:

Chair, Mr Andrew Hastie MP (Canning, WA) on 08 9534 8044 (Electorate office) or (02) 6277 4223 (Parliament House)

For background information:

Committee Secretariat - Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security –
(02) 6277 2360

TOLAbill@aph.gov.au

Interested members of the public may wish to track the committee via the [website](#). Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.