

During the hearing, Senator Shoebridge posed a question to the panel that included ICAN Australia (see end of page 34):

Senator Shoebridge: *I took ANSTO through four instances where this bill is not comparable to the existing ARPANSA provisions and safeguards. For the sake of time, could I ask if any of you, on notice, might like to share your views on whether or not those elements should be incorporated into the bill and, if so, how?*

As ICAN Australia co-chair, I invited comment from our founding organisation MAPW (Medical Association for Prevention of War), in response to Senator Shoebridge's question. MAPW also put in a submission and this question is more in their remit than that of ICAN Australia. MAPW president, Dr Sue Wareham OAM noted:

The current bill should have stronger, not weaker, provisions than the ARPANSA provisions and safeguards, because:

- Australia's integration with the US and UK militaries with our proposed submarines - their manufacture and future operation – is profound. In the event of a safety incident or accident involving one of the AUKUS submarines, the US and UK militaries would have strong interest in minimising any news that might further undermine any public support for having any nuclear subs in our ports. Unlike the Australian government, foreign governments such as those of the US and the UK have no responsibility towards the health and safety of the Australian people.

This means that there would almost certainly be strong pressure from the US and UK – foreign governments – to cover up such an incident or accident.

Mandatory reporting in the event of an incident or accident involving one of the submarines should be an absolute bare minimum in the protection of Australians' health and safety

- There is military secrecy around the design of the AUKUS submarines and their safety features, which means that safety assessments for the general public are even harder to make than with other reactors.

This is provided in addition to the response already sent by A/Professor Timan Ruff