

Even ignoring the degree to which this legislation is a gross overreach of government authority, which will feed the contempt for which Australians now feel for their government, it won't work.

The talent pool of privacy-focused technology advocates is not available to the government. The software which will be used to circumvent this law will be made by people with a deeper understanding of the technological aspects of the problem than anybody the government is able to hire.

Privacy-minded citizens will not permit the government to access their private messages. It will not be difficult for such people to achieve this, despite the desperate and expensive efforts of those who would declare themselves the enemies of privacy.

A very important aspect of this problem I do not believe the people working on this bill have considered is that criminal organisations will find themselves in need of the services of people who understand how to achieve privacy when your government is attempting to deny it.

The majority of these privacy focused individuals are not otherwise criminally inclined, though they are overrepresented on the fringes of society. The massive remuneration which criminal organisations will be offering in order to protect their privacy is likely to result in the criminalisation of these people.

The government is attempting to create new and lucrative positions in criminal organisations, which will be filled entirely with people who understand the technological implications of the forces at play far better than the people responsible for drafting this legislation.

Legislators seem incapable of thinking of this problem without appearing like blue-faced toddlers incensed that day will not become night, up not become down, at their loud and arrogant insistence.