

Cryptographers' statement on Australian export controls on
cryptography research

*Supplementary Submission to the inquiry into the implementation of the defence
trade controls legislation*

Submitted by Vanessa Teague, viteague@unimelb.edu.au , June 2015

Senator Chris Back

Chair Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Dear Senator Back,

I am currently attending an extended cryptography research meeting at UC Berkeley. In the attached statement, many of the attendees have expressed their deep concern over Australian export control restrictions applied to cryptography research. The signatories to this statement include some of the finest cryptographers in the world, inventors of the algorithms we rely on every day for electronic security and privacy. It is a tremendous privilege for me to be able to work with these people. This is exactly the sort of free exchange of new ideas that Australians will be excluded from under the DTCA unless there is an exemption for scientific research.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "V. Teague". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "V".




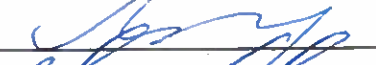









Vanessa Teague.

Cryptographers' statement on Australian export controls on cryptography research

We are deeply concerned about Australia's defence export controls restricting cryptographic research.

The academic freedom provided to cryptography researchers in Israel, the US, and most of Europe, is paramount to building a strong research community in cryptography and cyber-security. Australian researchers need to participate freely in this community, or risk being left behind or discouraged from doing cryptography research at all. Local research in cryptography and computer security has great benefits to society. Researchers train Australian students to work in cyber-security, and contribute to a knowledge base that informs public debate on issues related to electronic security and privacy. Cryptography can also support political freedoms: the UN Human Rights Council's recent report on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression¹ concluded that, "encryption and anonymity enable individuals to exercise their rights to freedom of opinion and expression in the digital age and, as such, deserve strong protection."

We hope that Australia's export control laws will be amended to include an exception for scientific research, and unequivocally believe that this is in the best interests of Australian society.

Name	Affiliation	Signature
PROF. YEHUDA LINDELL	BAR-ILAN UNIV. ISRAEL	
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Mariema Raykova	SRI	
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Abhishek Jain	JHU	
Ivan Damgård	Aarhus University	
Yuhai Ishai	Technion	
Elette Boyle	Technion Israel	
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¹ http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session29/Documents/A.HRC.29.32_AEV.doc

Adam B. Well	Georgetown	
KARIM ELDEFRAWY	HRL LABORATORIES	
PRATIYAN MUKHERJEE	AARHUS UNIV.	
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Mehdi Tibouchi	NTT	
Alain Passelègue	ENS	
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Kane YANG	U of Waterloo	
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Charalampos Papamanthakis	U. Maryland	
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Ron Rivest	MIT	Ron Rivest
Manuel Sabin	UC Berkeley	
Steve Myers	Indiana University	
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