



Submission No 89

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

Organisation: Mr Jarrad Pavy

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation – Jarrad Pavy

The Australian Government Attorney-General's Department has a proposed 'data retention' policy. This policy would see ISPs like Telstra and Optus compelled to keep detailed data on the internet usage of their customers for a period of two years. This is extremely alarming to me; I see it as a massive invasion of the freedom and privacy of every single law-abiding Australian citizen who uses the Internet. Senator Scott Ludlam from the Greens really described the situation well, in my opinion, when he described this policy as ".... the systematic erosion of privacy."

Imagine Australia Post being told that they must open and photocopy every single letter I mail out or receive, and store them for a period of two years. Or Telstra being told that they must record every single telephone call I make or receive. These comparisons might seem outlandish, but in terms of the Internet this is essentially what the government wants to force ISPs to do.

Then there are other aspects to this review that are deeply troubling. For instance, Australians could be jailed for years for failing to hand over their computer passwords. This is utterly appalling. These sorts of laws are what we expect to find in countries like Iran or North Korea. When coupled with other government plans such as, Internet censorship, there is a disturbing trend towards the creation of a totalitarian police state. These laws have absolutely no place in a free democratic society and I urge the committee to completely reject these horrible proposals in full.