



Submission No 193

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

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Organisation: **Electronic Frontier Foundation**



ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION

Protecting Rights and Promoting Freedom on the Electronic Frontier

24 August 2012

Hon Anthony Byrne MP
Chair
Joint Parliamentary Committee on Intelligence and Security
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Byrne:

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) wishes to formally express its grave concerns about the concepts introduced in the Australia Attorney General Department's (AGD) proposed Potential Reforms of National Security Legislation, submitted for the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Intelligence and Security's Inquiry.

We echo the detailed arguments outlined by the Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) in its submission, dated 20 August 2012, responding to the AGD's proposal on this matter. We are strongly supportive of the positions voiced by APF and would like to register our endorsement of their analysis into the public record.

EFF is a is an international civil society non-governmental organization with more than 14,000 members worldwide, dedicated to the protection of citizens' online civil rights, privacy, and freedom of expression. EFF engages in strategic litigation in the United States and works in a range of international and national policy venues to promote balanced laws that protect civil rights, foster innovation and empower consumers. EFF is located in San Francisco, California and has members in 67 countries throughout the world.

EFF is deeply disturbed by the threats this vague and poorly worded proposal poses to the privacy rights of ordinary Australian citizens not suspected of any wrongdoing. As APF has stated, too many of the proposals outlined in the Attorney General's Discussion Paper would herald a major and unacceptable increase in the powers of law enforcement and national security agencies to intrude into the lives of innocents Australians.

EFF will keep calling attention to the Australian government's proposal by publishing detailed articles and posts on social media platforms in support of the work of partner organizations such as Australia Privacy Foundation.

EFF is hopeful that our support for APF will be taken into consideration and we look forward to engaging in future discussions on this issue.

Sincerely,

Katitza Rodriguez
International Rights Director, Electronic Frontier Foundation

Rebecca Bowe
International Privacy Coordinator, Electronic Frontier Foundation