



Submission No 79

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

Organisation: Name withheld

Sent: Sunday, 19 August 2012 9:05 AM
To: Committee, PJCIS (REPS)
Subject: NSL Submission

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

I submit the following points in favour of having **no** reforms for internet users in Australia.

1. ISP's cannot provide security from hackers, therefore allowing private business and personal information to get into the wrong hands.
2. The government's discussion paper does not provide any justification for these vastly increased surveillance powers.
3. Governments around the world are demanding secrecy for themselves and total transparency for citizens. I believe that this should be the other way around.
4. Governments cannot use the excuse that they need to increase surveillance in order to detect child pornography because they already have laws in place for this purpose.
5. ASIO has already foiled several terrorism plots using their own Act, surveillance techniques and methods, so using terrorism as an excuse to spy on the general public is bad policy.
6. I believe it assumes that everyone is guilty until proven innocent, and this should be the other way around.
7. Employees of Centrelink have been sacked for looking through private information of clients. This could happen again putting our privacy at great risk.
8. Australians want their democratic rights protected, as enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
9. The internet is a vital communications medium that millions of people use to exercise rights to freedom of expression and collaboration. It is too important to risk with misconceived proposals such as the ones before the committee.
10. We deserve the right to use the internet without fear of 'big brother' looking over our shoulders.

In conclusion, I am not in favour of following in the steps of the USA where they have enforced unnecessary and overwhelming security infringements in almost all areas of life. We have a low level terrorist threat that in no way warrants such dramatic measures. The day we, the citizen's of Australia are no longer free to use our electronic media for communication, without government interference will be a sad day in the history of this country.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the points raised in this submission.

Regards

(Name withheld)