



Submission No 1

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

Name: Odette Stevens

Organisation: Private capacity

From: Odette Stevens
Sent: Thursday, 12 July 2012 4:54 PM
To: Committee, PJCIS (REPS)
Subject: re Data Retention submission

To the committee and others interested in my submission of my personal concerns on the proposed data collection and storage legislation,

My name is Odette Stevens, thank you for reading my submission , I am submitting my concerns about the proposed Data retention legislation for Australian ISPs. I am an Australian , and have a concern that the data collection proposed by the Australian government will increase the fear and nervousness that as people living in a free democratic country we should be free from feeling, an untrusted, and being watched for criminal behaviour by our own government, by businesses not designed to monitor the information its customers disclose to each other in private conversation. I believe the potential for further monitoring of the personal data by more government and non government departments/agencies, and further , this data being shared without full disclosure of intent and purpose by those departments/agencies, and even their overseas partnerships.

I also believe that this data retention policy inhibits the way a person will and can communicate via online discussions , both in group situations and private dialogues online , with emails no longer being a private matter between two people, but something worded more in line with the feeling someone else could be reading .Someone looking over your shoulder .I believe the proposed legislation is a abomination in its disregard for personal privacy and the right to be let be , I imagine the outrage if all Australia Post communications were open , copied , and the copy kept for two years.

This form of data retention is a knee jerk reaction with no way of deterring or stopping any form of terrorism. ie if I was a terrorist I would use a code , or encrypted information , I certainly wouldn't just send critical information via an email. With this thought in mind maybe if the legislation does pass , then any terrorist would just use Australia Post as that communication line isn't (as yet, as far as I know) monitored.

I also believe that the holding of this data by ISPs puts an emphasis on the company holding that information to be held responsible for not bringing any alleged criminal behaviour to the attention of the relevant authority. Also this data would need to be held in a totally secure place- there is nowhere that safe is there? So will the ISP company or the government be at fault if some of that very private information becomes public knowledge though some sort of privacy breach? Also how much room are ISP companies going to need for this sort of data storage? Will the cost of this over the top surveillance be passed onto the very people this legislation is targeting in its wide surveillance sweep?

I verily believe that if this legislation is allowed to pass , the very fabric of democracy and Australian values will be severely violated, when a government expects to read , and have the right to hold any written publication that was meant to be a private communication we have no right to private opinion and discourse left online at all.

That is not democracy. It is giving in to terror and becoming a tyranny based government, just as any terrorist regime. Monitoring peoples private communications, and data is wrong.

Sincerely
Odette Stevens