

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES
25 OCTOBER 2021**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 1.2: National Security and Criminal Justice

SE21-031 - SLAID Bill - Three Warrants

Senator Kristina Keneally asked:

Senator KENEALLY: The Ransomware Action Plan also, it seems, reannounces the establishment of a multiagency law enforcement operation dubbed Operation Orcus, which was established in July of this year.

Mr Ablong: That's correct.

Senator KENEALLY: What disruption activities have been undertaken in the first three months of this operation?

Mr Ablong: As you would have heard from the commissioner of the AFP, there are a couple of administrative matters which need to be dealt with as part of the SLA(ID) Act.

Senator KENEALLY: Right. So you're waiting for those three warrants that came in under the SLA(ID) Bill to come into effect?

Mr Ablong: That's correct, yes.

Senator KENEALLY: Minister, do you have any insight as to when the Attorney-General is going to finalise those administrative matters?

Senator Stoker: I can tell you that we are committed to passing it.

Senator KENEALLY: It's passed, Minister. I'm trying to understand when the warrants are going to come—

Senator Stoker: Sorry, I thought you were talking about the second bill. I beg your pardon.

Senator KENEALLY: No. The SLA(ID) bill passed parliament on 25 August.

Senator Stoker: We're talking about different things. I was talking about something completely different. I beg your pardon.

Senator KENEALLY: There are the three warrants under the SLA(ID) bill. That was passed on 25 August. I've now had two agencies tell me they're waiting on administrative arrangements through the Attorney-General's office to finalise those warrants.

Senator Stoker: Why don't I take that on notice for you?

Answer:

The Department of Home Affairs and the Attorney-General's Department have been working through a number of administrative steps to ensure that issuing authorities are able to issue the new warrants under the *Surveillance Legislation Amendment (Identify and Disrupt) Act 2021* (SLAID Act), including obtaining consent from judges and Administrative Appeals Tribunal members.

These processes are now finalised and there are issuing authorities available to issue data disruption, network activity and account takeover warrants.

As of December 2021, agencies have obtained warrants under the new powers introduced by the SLAID Act.