

'Anti-terrorism' legislation

*Introducing a new offence of associating with a person linked with a terrorist

Q. When you meet a person, how do you know whether that person is linked with a terrorist any more than you would know if that person is heterosexual or gay, born in Australia or came here at the age of ten? What you do know, from many media sources, is that when you give a section of people power over the lives of others then corruption erupts in the form of torture, physical and sexual abuse of men women and children. If, knowing that, you still pass these laws, then you are on a par with terrorists and the time will come when you yourselves are put on trial. It's happened in other countries and it will happen in this one.

*Grant to the authorities the power to prevent people from leaving Australia even before an ASIO warrant has been issued against them.

Q. How will you stop a section of those authorities from illegally preventing innocent people from leaving the country or going on holiday until they pay a bribe?

*Intrude into the privacy of citizen by allowing investigators to access the National Criminal Investigation DNA database in the event of a domestic mass casualty incident.

Q. Again, how can you be sure this will be free from corruption? I refer you to the recent reports of police corruption in NSW. According to The Australian, [28th June, 2004] 'No legal action will be taken against dozens of NSW Police officers despite a Police Integrity Commission (PIC) report which said they engaged in misconduct'. You cannot make laws which detain and jail one section of the community, who may be innocent, while another section of the community who has been engaged in misconduct is not charged. Especially when, according to The Australian, The commission today said it heard "startling evidence of police corruption over a lengthy period" from 99 witnesses, 32 of whom were serving officers at the time they gave evidence. and these are some of the people who will have the power to implement your legislation.

The introduction of legislation in such haste without proper public consultation and debate inevitably leads to bad law.

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