



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL

REFERENCES COMMITTEE
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

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26 April 2002

Senator the Hon. Margaret Reid
President of the Senate
Suite SG.40
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Madam President

**Interim Report on the Inquiry into the Provisions of the Criminal Code
Amendment (Espionage and Related Offences) Bill 2002**

On 20 March 2002, the Senate Selection of Bills Committee recommended and the Senate subsequently agreed, to the referral of the provisions of the *Criminal Code Amendment (Espionage and Related Offences) Bill 2002* to the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee, with a reporting date of 26 April 2002.

It should be noted that in the last sitting week of the autumn session, the Committee was referred six new inquiries. Whilst the Committee has endeavoured to fulfil its mandate as set by the Senate, it must also fully consider the significant nature of the issues raised.

Accordingly, the Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee intends to table its final report to the Senate on the above Bill on or before Friday, 10 May 2002.

Yours sincerely

Senator Marise Payne
Chair