

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background

1.1 On 5 August 2004, the Senate referred the provisions of the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Telecommunications Offences and Other Measures) Bill (No.2) 2004 to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 11 August 2004.

1.2 The Bill repeals existing telecommunications offences in the *Crimes Act 1914*, and inserts new and updated telecommunications offences in the *Criminal Code Act 1995*.

1.3 It should be noted that when originally introduced into Parliament on 24 June 2004 the Bill also included offences in relation to access, transmission and availability of suicide related material. These provisions are now contained in the Criminal Code Amendment (Suicide Related Material Offences) Bill 2004.

Conduct of the Inquiry

1.4 The Committee contacted by email and telephone over 40 individuals and organisations. It should be noted although the inquiry was conducted over a relatively short period, the bill was subject to a public review process of the original exposure draft by the Attorney General's Department, which involved over 60 submissions.

1.5 The Committee received 5 submissions and these are listed at Appendix 1. Submissions were placed on the Committee's website for ease of access by the public.

1.6 The Committee held a public hearing on 9 August 2004. A list of witnesses who appeared at the hearing is at Appendix 2 and copies of the Hansard transcript are available through the Internet on www.aph.gov.au/hansard

Acknowledgment

1.7 The Committee thanks those organisations and individuals who made submissions and gave evidence at the public hearing.

Note on References

1.8 References in this report are to individual submissions as received by the Committee, not to a bound volume. References to the Committee Hansard are to the proof Hansard – page numbers may vary between the proof and the official Hansard transcript.

