

Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee (Senate)  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT

8 January 2006

Dear Committee Members,

Re: Submission: Defence Legislation Amendment (Aid to Civilian Authorities) Bill 2005

I am an ordinary citizen and elector.

I make this submission due to concerns regarding potential cumulative, adverse impacts on the social fabric and political processes of the Commonwealth of Australia, flowing from recent legislation passed by and bills currently before Parliament.

By incremental steps Parliament has and is consenting to an unprecedented federal centralisation of power and erosion of rights and freedoms of Australian citizens.

If the Defence Legislation Amendment (Aid to Civilian Authorities) Bill 2005 passes into statute law, the Prime Minister of Australia and/or unspecified ministers will have certain domestic powers that the framers of the Australian Constitution were careful not to allow without safeguards supplied by the institution and authority of the Governor-General.

Any legislation which seeks to pervert constitutional intent brings both law and Parliament into disrepute.

Additionally the Bill allows a degree of immunity in domestic situations to the Australian Defence Forces which is incompatible with expected levels of accountability in a democratic and just society.

I state unequivocally to the Committee that I reject any assertion that either the tabling and carriage of, or provisions, intent and wording of the aforementioned Bill is done in my name as citizen and elector.

Yours faithfully,

JUDITH M. MELVILLE

NSW