



BORDER AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

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Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVACY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS) Bill 2006

Thank you for the invitation to the AFP to make a submission to the Parliamentary inquiry into the *Privacy Legislation Amendment (Emergencies and Disasters) Bill 2006*.

The AFP believes the sharing of information between organisations to locate, identify or assist people affected by a disaster or emergency is fundamental to the effective management of a response to these situations. The sharing of this information will also improve the ability of these organisations to inform families and others about those affected by a disaster or other emergency situation.

Accordingly, the AFP supports the amendments to the *Privacy Act 1988* to allow the lawful sharing of information between agencies, state and territory authorities, private sector organisations and non-government organisations, in a declared emergency or disaster situation.

The AFP is happy to assist the Senate Committee in its inquiry, including appearing before the Committee if required. The relevant AFP contact officer is Verity Hanks, Senior Legislation Officer, on 62757104 or at verity.hanks@afp.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Peter Drennan
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