

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Fax: (02) 6277 5794  
Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

Submission in relation to Anti-Terrorism Bill 2005 (Cth)

I refer to the Anti-Terrorism Bill 2005 (Cth) ('the Bill'), a draft of which was posted on ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope's website ([http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/docs/B05PG201\\_v281.pdf](http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/docs/B05PG201_v281.pdf)).

At the outset, I strongly object to the lack of time allowed for meaningful debate of the Bill. This Bill involves momentous changes to Australian law and yet the government is rushing through the passage of this Bill at an unwise pace. The government's actions speak not only of contempt for Australian citizens but also for their democratically elected representatives.

This Bill should be rejected. Safe communities need measures that effectively prevent political and religious violence. The government has, however, failed to demonstrate why this Bill is necessary. Safe communities also need safe laws. This Bill, however, will, expose Australians to dangerous laws. It will allow innocent people to be jailed. People can be punished without proof and some will be treated as guilty until proven innocent. If passed, this Bill will also allow Australians to be targeted on the basis of their religious and political beliefs. Far from promoting the security of Australians, the Bill, if enacted, will inflict insecurity on the community.

Your Sincerely,

Naomi Mawson  
Kenmore  
Brisbane