

Kriston Terbutt
Abbotsford, VIC

November 7, 2005

To The Senate Legal And Constitutional Committee

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you in regards to my extreme concerns with the new Anti-Terror Bill 2005.

The specific provisions pertaining to Sedition within the bill, concern me in as much,

that they will unreasonably erode freedom of speech and artistic expression in this country.

I believe these new provisions to be unnecessary and call urgently for the sedition provisions

to be removed for the following key reasons.

Sedition laws are:

1. Unnecessary - current law already prohibits inciting crimes, membership and funding of terrorist organisations, and racial vilification.
2. Dangerous - by their nature they are political and have been used against Gandhi, Mandela, and the supporters of the Eureka Stockade.
3. Too broad - a person or an organisation could be charged with sedition without, as existing law requires, having urged force or violence.
4. Unfair - the sedition laws reverse the onus of proof. The accused will be assumed guilty and will need to prove their innocence. It will be almost impossible for them to do this under the proposed legislation.

The proposed sedition laws threaten Australia's proud tradition of protecting free speech and promoting democracy.

Sincerely yours,

Kriston Terbutt