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**Truth Compassion Forbearance**

**Falun Dafa Association of Australia Inc**

Committee Secretary  
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security  
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Dear Committee Secretary

**Proposed Amendments to Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill 2017 (the Bill)**

The Falun Dafa Association of Australia Incorporated, including the Falun Dafa Association of Australia, Victoria Branch and the Falun Dafa Association of Australia, Queensland Branch (the Association), welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to amendments to the Bill as proposed by the Attorney General, the Hon Christian Porter MP.

The Association is a charitable entity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission, and as such, under a recommendation from the Law Council of Australia to the inquiry into the Bill, should be exempt from the proposed registration scheme.

We also note that under the original Clause 10, Definitions, a foreign principal meant: (a) a foreign government; (b) a foreign public enterprise; (c) a foreign political organisation; (d) a foreign business; (e) an individual who is neither an Australian citizen nor a permanent Australian resident. Also under the original Clause 11 - undertaking activity on behalf of a foreign principal - included activity in the service of, and in collaboration with the foreign principal.

The above clauses could have been interpreted to capture the activities of the Association as we do liaise and collaborate with Falun Dafa Associations in other countries, but not in China where Falun Dafa has been banned and persecuted for the past 19 years.

And when Clause 10 also defined a 'foreign national' as an individual who is neither an Australian citizen nor a permanent Australian resident, it could have been interpreted that Australians who practice Falun Dafa and its teachings set forth by Mr Li Hongzhi, the founder of the practice who now lives in the US, could also have been required to register.

Clearly, we don't believe it is the intention of the Bill to require registration of the Association or people in Australia who practice Falun Dafa, and we trust that the proposed amendments will make that clear.

We stand up to protect fundamental human rights and freedom of belief and expose the human rights abuses of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), including its actions within Australia to influence our society and government through its affiliated Chinese associations, business connections and Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms in schools.

We offer the following comments on the proposed parliamentary amendments to the Bill.

### **Amendments to definition of 'foreign principal'**

Making more specific definitions of where and when the provisions of the Bill apply does respond to concerns of innocent people in Australia being caught up in an increasingly complex web of regulation and oversight.

However, the CCP will most likely dissect any such definitions and install their operatives in ways and positions that technically comply with what the Australian government will regulate.

That would be a typical response of the CCP – to use the principles and laws that are part of western democratic processes against democratic governments in order to achieve its own ends. An example is China's actions within the United Nations, where technical compliance with reporting mechanisms that relate to China is achieved through 'playing the system', while what actually happens in China remains concealed.

### **Activity for the purposes of political or governmental influence**

Section 12 remains a potential concern for the Association. We would hope that our efforts to inform members of parliament and government departments about human rights abuses in China, or the impact of the CCP's persecution of Falun Gong as it extends into Australia, is not considered negatively as an 'activity for the purposes of political or governmental influence.'

The CCP claims that Falun Dafa is an ‘anti-China political group.’ Disturbingly, we hear this message repeated by some ‘experts’ to parliamentary inquiries, and even by some members of parliament. We trust that our efforts to help the Australian government respond appropriately to CCP activities that not only seek to validate its campaign to eliminate Falun Gong, but also seek to undermine Australia’s sovereignty and very way of life, are correctly understood.

### **Introduction of transparency notice regime**

The CCP uses broad terms in setting out laws in China so that it can impose interpretations that suit its ends, as distinct from a specific rule of law system in Australia.

Hopefully, the proposed transparency notice regime, whereby the Secretary of the Attorney General’s department may issue a notice that a person is a foreign government related entity or related individual will provide a ‘back-up’ mechanism if the CCP uses its usual methods to try and flout laws intended to protect Australia’s sovereignty.

We appreciate the government’s efforts to protect Australia from foreign interference that would harm our interests and way of life.

In concluding, we trust that the government correctly understands our efforts to end the human rights atrocities committed against Falun Gong practitioners in China and that the Association will be exempt from registration under the Bill.

Yours faithfully

John Deller  
Secretary  
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