



**Police Federation  
of Australia**  
The National Voice of Policing

***SUBMISSION to the***

The Secretary  
Senate Environment and Communications Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

via – [ec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ec.sen@aph.gov.au)

***Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Information Disclosure) Bill 2022***

The Police Federation of Australia (PFA) is the national body representing the professional and industrial interests of Australia’s more than 66,000 police officers, across all state, territory, and the federal police jurisdictions.

Membership as at: 31 December 2021	
Police Association of South Australia	4,774
Western Australia Police Union of Workers	7,100
Queensland Police Union of Employees	12,190
The Police Association (Victoria)	17,791
Police Association of NSW	17,174
Police Association of Tasmania	1,419
Northern Territory Police Association	1,616
Australian Federal Police Association	3,965
<b>Police Federation of Australia</b>	<b>66,029</b>

I am pleased to be able to offer the PFA’s support for the Bill.

We have specifically liaised with the Australian Federal Police who have outlined any potential impact on the AFP and in turn our members.

We note, it will be important that there is an appropriate protocol for the role of the AFP in any such circumstances where a serious criminal offence may be reported under the Act, including protocols around the ability to share any appropriate disclosed information.

We have been further advised that as a result of the Bill, the AFP will review and update its own guidance and procedures for dealing with Public Interest Disclosures within its agency.

We further note and support the comments in the Australian Federal Police submission in relation to proposed amendments to sections 285, 287 and 300 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*. Any amendments that will assist police in minimizing the threat of serious injury or death to a missing person should be expedited. We point out, that there are numerous safeguards to prevent the misuse of any information derived from such proposed legislative amendment.

I would be happy to appear before the Committee to expand on any aspects of this submission.

Sincerely yours,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Scott Weber APM.

Scott Weber APM  
Chief Executive Officer

31 January 2023