

I am writing to the Inquiry to express, in no uncertain way, my opposition and outright bitterness toward the current Government after passing the *Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Bill 2018*.

Let me be quite plain.

This law *will* not end well. If there is anything I have learned about ‘backdoors’, it is that you **cannot** make one just for the ‘good guys’.

If you make it to investigate a criminal, another person will use it to uncover the personal lives of a celebrity, a politician, or anyone for that matter. This law allows that.

Allow me to put it in terms most Australians would understand. What would your reaction be if a member of the Police force asked for a key to the back door of your house? “Okay, they may be investigating something”, you may say. However, they then tell you that if you refuse, you will be put in gaol. Even worse, if you even *tell* anyone that you are following the orders to give the key, you will be put in gaol. Keep in mind, this scenario could happen without judicial or court oversight. *This law allows that.*

Your Government says you need it for ‘National Security’, to prevent terrorism. A noble prospect, however, that line of thought is overshadowed some politicians continued, unabated use of end-to-end encrypting messaging services to avoid public scrutiny.

I grew up in perhaps the naive notion that politicians are honest people. If they were honest, none would have any objection to having their official communications available for scrutiny.

Let’s not forget the recent breach of (thankfully) non-sensitive data from the Victorian Government. Do you want criminals accessing private files of every recipient of Centrelink, or private Cabinet discussions?

I am planning on entering the IT industry, and you have put me in an unfortunate position. Why would I have to be compelled, to turn my back on my colleagues, and to so completely desecrate my morals, to avoid imprisonment?

I plead that the Government can see the other side to this, and realise that it is a slippery slope to authoritarianism. I don’t want that, and I am sure you don’t either.