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 February 2021

Senator James Paterson
Chair of the
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email to: pjcis@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Paterson

Review of the Intelligence Oversight and Other Legislation Amendment (Integrity Measures) Bill 2020

Thank you for the invitation to provide a submission to the Committee's review of the Intelligence Oversight and Other Legislation Amendment (Integrity Measures) Bill 2020 (the Bill).

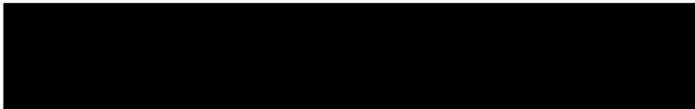
Officers from the Department of Home Affairs and the Attorney-General's Department consulted with my Office as the Bill was developed and drafted, and the comments we provided were appropriately addressed. With this in mind, I do not have any further comments about the contents of the Bill as drafted.

We welcome the enhanced complaint transfer arrangements the Bill introduces between my Office and the Inspector General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS) for matters related to the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) and the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC). My Office has, and will continue to have, oversight of the non-intelligence functions of the ACIC and AUSTRAC under the *Ombudsman Act 1976*. Additionally, we have a specific inspection and reporting function in relation to the ACIC's legislative compliance when using covert or intrusive powers. It is therefore crucial the IGIS and my Office are able to share information and complaints.

My Office has a close working relationship with the IGIS. The Bill as drafted will support my Office to continue to work cooperatively with the IGIS, and to avoid duplication of oversight activities between our two offices.

I would be happy to appear before the Committee to answer questions or provide additional information if this would assist the review.

Yours sincerely


Michael Manthorpe PSM
Commonwealth Ombudsman

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