

Submission To The Inquiry: Australian Security Intelligence Amendment Bill

I wish to object to the above proposed legislation.

I am an ordinary Australian citizen – a 73 year old woman. I know nothing of the technicalities of this amendment. I also acknowledge that those within the Security Service hold certain views on the importance of National Security. However, their focus on this aspect is very narrow & does not take into account other factors which are important in a function society i.e. the rights of the individual to privacy & not have their whereabouts or data available to this government or, indeed, to foreign governments.

Our citizens are already subject to more legislation in this area than any other western democracy & any additional information can be obtained through existing legislation without extending the powers of government to intrude on our private lives. It is a precious thing this bill is asking us to give up without any explanation of extenuating circumstances. Especially worrying is the fact that the government should even consider such draconian measures for children as young as 14 years of age.

In summary, my objection is that in addition to the security of the State the inquiry should consider the security of every citizen to go about their private lives without the State having the right to spy on them. Any measures to re-assure us that these powers will not be abused are better served by not allowing this bill in the first place.

Jean John

