



Submission No 214

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

Organisation: Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association
and Communications Alliance – supplementary
submission – answers to questions on notice

PJCIS Hearing – Friday 14 September, 2012

Inquiry into Potential Reforms of National Security Legislation

Response to question taken on notice:

“**Senator STEPHENS:** I just go back to the point that you raised in your submission at 3.15 which you now say could have been expressed a little bit better, because you do mention the notion of a centralised clearinghouse. Given that one of the responsibilities of the Attorney-General's Department and others will be to respond to the issues raised in your submission, I invite you to take on notice reworking that paragraph so that it is much clearer and the response from the Attorney-General's Department is not: 'No, we don't support a clearinghouse.' If you could tease that out a bit further, that would be helpful”

The following text is a revised 3.15. The Associations would also like to re-position this comment in the submission and so the following text should be read as 4.14 and be considered as part of section 4 of our submission, rather than section 3.

- 4.14 The Associations also suggest that a formalised information sharing and consultative framework between Government and industry members (similar to the Trusted Information Sharing Network (TISN) or Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) Australia) could be established which would allow Government to disseminate information about potential security threats to communications networks in a timely manner. With appropriate access controls in place, such a framework could allow information to be shared quickly, efficiently and more effectively with a focus on achieving a desired set of national security outcomes, rather than specifying the methodology by which these outcomes are achieved. The Associations suggest that such a consultative framework would appropriately sit under the remit of the Attorney-General's Department (AGD). The Associations suggest that such a framework could be based on a set of guidelines which could serve to guide industry on what the Government is trying to achieve in respect to network resilience and protection. It is understood that the AGD is already working on the development of some draft guidelines. The Associations look forward to continued dialogue with the AGD as these guidelines are developed.