



Submission No 4

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

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Organisation: Private capacity

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

-Submission

I am a retired citizen and I would like to add my voice to an increasing chorus of dissent against the rapid onset of surveillance of the population. Surveillance that is unwarranted in view of potential threats balanced against potential abuses of increasing surveillance. We send Australian soldiers half way around the world to fight for the freedoms that this proposal is trying to quench.

As an ordinary citizen I find myself alarmed at the increasing loss of privacy in my life as a result of the paranoid application of surveillance. Some examples – I now cannot smile in a drivers licence photo so the image can be used in photo recognition – I bought a \$1 sim card for my second phone the other day to find that I now have to give my licence or passport number to a private organization linked to government records. I am viewed by cameras wherever I go, undoubtedly my telephone calls are recorded for later analysis if required– all my internet traffic going through United States (and soon to be UK) servers is analysed.

As far as this latest proposed encroachment is concerned, what does any potential trouble maker with half a brain do to avoid detection – write a letter

To put in blunt terms – the whole issue of state paranoia is out of control. I personally think its time to start winding back some excesses already in place. To contemplate yet more brings to mind a favourite Australian phrase

“You have got to be joking”