



Submission No 5

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

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Organisation: Private capacity

Response to submission for National Security Legislation

To Ministers,

Currently I work within the Queensland state government as a Senior IT officer who's skills range from a front line service desk staff member to IT Operational manager. My experience in IT, within the public service and outside is fairly broad in regards to my roles. I feel few questions I will ask you below may trigger some concerns. If you take them lightly, then you won't see what I, and 95% of the Australia public who voted on this subject via SMH website see. Please review the questions and expect the worst, and the best. Look at the risks, the loss of freedoms and how those who believe in not being watched 24/7 feel.

Also as a private citizen of this great nation I have grave concerns about this legislation ever coming to pass.

While I concur with some of these points, most of them are outright ludicrous. Honestly, I don't want ASIO, or for a matter of fact anyone able to access my computer at home.

Why? Simply put I want the freedom to be able to perform what I wish without worrying if someone is tracking my every movement.

I 'm not a paedophile, or a terrorist (though, I think I *would* be labelled as a terrorist should ASIO view my internet history) as I review and look at documents posted by Wikileaks. I simply wish to be able to hold accountable my elected government to the standards they promise to (within reason) without having ASIO install programs on my computer without my knowledge.

When anyone refers to this Legislation as "required because of the bad guys!!" or "If you have nothing to hide, why do you care?" I would ask them and yourself to spend the next weekend off you have to think about the following;

Do I care that ASIO has the ability to install anything on my sons / daughters / family's devices and watch our every movement?

Do I care that ASIO would be able to record any conversation / camera footage from any of my devices, or other Australia's and publish them WITHOUT any course of accountability?

Do I care that someone may use the fact that a family member may have a private matter exposed and used against them as a public embarrassment tool?

Do I care that malicious crackers (non technical people call them 'hackers') can access and will access all of this data to begin defrauding the public? (You cannot protect this data. It is impossible)

Do I care once ASIO install something, malicious users / crackers can as well?

In summary I could continue to extend my questions, explain the risks of each point however I don't want to spoon feed you. You do have the power for self reasoning, I ask that you think about this yourself, or ask others that mean a lot to you personally..

Ministers, I implore you not to cave to those who would make money out of doing this, nor to those who seem to be able to justify 'why' these broad sweeping powers need to be approved in a few simple lines, touting 'you must support paedophiles, terrorists, hackers, aliens'

(Aliens added to show how silly a argument this is. I could talk about how you support paedophiles because you drive a car! And cars are used in abductions!)

Please seek advice, or invite into the committee (merely as a observer and non-aligned technical adviser) those public facing organisations that are for internet freedoms. You will be surprised about how far inwards they will be willing to reach on some of your agenda items, on others they will outright reject. If we are still a democracy, I hope the Australia public is given the chance to vote on this matter. My mother (59) isn't technically, barely knows how to load up a browser. She has already stated she is against this. How is a 59 year old female Australia citizen, registered nurse of any use to ASIO and require random sweeps of her privacy. Ministers, please do not fall for the alarmists amongst you, nor those who are lobbying for changes. Please listen to the public on this matter.

Furthermore, those that have a half decent grasp on technology, these legislations will mean nothing we all can't get around easily. It will only drive those who do wish us harm, or those we love further underground and harder to catch.

<https://www.efa.org.au/> is at the forefront of Australian efforts and are worth speaking with on this matter.

Regards,

Adrian