



Submission No 63

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation

Organisation: Mr Roy Bishop

Sent: Friday, 17 August 2012 1:55 PM
To: Committee, PJCIS (REPS)
Subject: RE: Inquiry into National Security Legislation

Dear Secretary

The Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation covers complex matters that the community has had little time to understand, digest and make comment. I am concerned that no changes be made without a significant dialogue with the wider community.

I'm very concerned about greatly expanding surveillance powers, where there is no demonstrated need to do so. I oppose the requirement for ISPs to retain data for up to two years for everyone. This should only be an option where there is objective evidence of a need and risk.

These proposal would override well-established privacy and freedom of expression, as well as international treaties and agreements. Australia used to be a leader in human rights rather than a leader in undermining democracy.

I am very concerned about misuse and abuse of these powers. While the internet has risks, it has made significant improvements to the engagement of citizens and their participation in democratic process. This is vital for a civil society.

Your sincerely
Roy Bishop