

Committee P.

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

laws

My dear elected representatives,

May I make a brief submission to the Enquiry?

My submission is that the laws which were enacted in a time of perhaps special concern after 911 should not be renewed.

I understand that ASIO and other authorities have over the years done an excellent job using their previous powers. There is the possibility of isolated cases where the operations could have been better, but improvements have come from better understanding of the circumstances rather than increased powers. I believe the previous powers are manifestly suitable and should again be the basis for operation.

I have a concern about extending powers like the power to hold people without charge or the power to hold people who are not suspects but might have some knowledge of suspects. Whilst I would not like to comment on any individual Officer, my concern is that powers like this should not be on the statute as they will be misused. The existence and sometimes use of these powers reduces my enthusiasm for and trust in ASIO. That is not a good outcome.

I submit that the whole of these laws be allowed to set into the sunset and that we return to our previous very adequate state.

Yours faithfully
David Hopkins

Submission No: 105
Date Received: 11-7-05
Secretary: