

**Quintus-Bosz, Donna (REPS)**

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**From:** on behalf of Committee, PJCIS (REPS)

**Subject:** FW: Review of existing Australian legislation that enables the Attorney-General to proscribe organisations linked with terrorism.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Dale Hess

**Sent:** Monday, 29 January 2007 11:10 AM

**To:** Committee, PJCIS (REPS)

**Subject:** Review of existing Australian legislation that enables the Attorney-General to proscribe organisations linked with terrorism.

Dear Members of the Joint Committee,

As a Quaker, I am interested in issues relating to peace and justice. I would like to comment on the review of existing Australian legislation regarding the Attorney-General's powers to proscribe organisations linked with terrorism.

- These powers are too broad. Organisations have been listed outside of the United Nations list; those posing no threat within Australia have been listed; and as has been stated previously in several Parliamentary committee reports on the listings whole organisations have been listed even though part of the organisation performs a legitimate community welfare role.
- Listing certain organisations subjects whole ethnic communities to unfair practices, harassment and discrimination
- I strongly support the proposal from an earlier report of the Joint Committee that there be an Independent Reviewer of terrorism law.
- Parliament must take a continuing role in reviewing this type of legislation.
- There must be a greater opportunity for judicial discretion in handing cases under the legislation.

I urge the Committee to recommend limiting the powers of the Attorney-General as indicated above and provide continuing oversight of the legislation and greater involvement of the judiciary.

Sincerely,

George Dale Hess