

**Parliamentary Joint Committee on the
Australian Crime Commission**

Inquiry Into Cybercrime

Submission No:6

Received 9 May 2003

Ms Elizabeth Heenan

President

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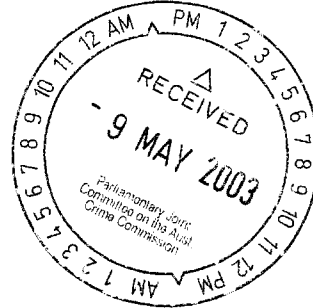
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The Law Society

— OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA —

7 May 2003

Ms Maureen Weeks
Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee
on the Australian Crime Commission
Parliament of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Ms Weeks

PJC Inquiry into Cybercrime

I refer to your letter of 11 April 2003, inviting the Society to comment on the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission's Inquiry into Cybercrime.

The Society considers that the existing laws cover reasonably well any crime committed via the Internet – that is, 'cybercrime' is merely crime committed via the Internet. Although, generally, existing laws give wide-ranging powers, it may be that the existing powers of the ACC could need to be widened to allow investigations of suspected Internet crimes. However, any increase in power is likely to impinge upon individual rights and may impose additional burdens on ISPs and others in the industry.

It is noted also that, with the increasingly heavy reliance of business upon the Internet, there is an increased threat posed by attack on the Internet infrastructure by viruses, worms, etc, and terrorist attacks on exchanges, fibre-optic cable connections and ISPs.

It is hoped that these comments are of assistance to the Inquiry. The Society understands that the Law Council of Australia also intends to consider this matter, as it is a Federal issue. In that case, the Society would defer to the report of its national body.

The Society would like to thank the Committee for providing the opportunity to comment on the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elizabeth Heenan".

Elizabeth Heenan
President

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