

The Senate

Standing Committee on
Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Families, Community Services and Indigenous
Affairs and Veterans' Affairs Legislation
Amendment (2006 Budget Measures) Bill 2006
[Provisions]

November 2006

© Commonwealth of Australia 2006

ISBN 0 642 71733 8

This document was printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Department of the Senate,
Parliament House, Canberra

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Members

Senator Marise Payne, **Chair**, LP, NSW

Senator Patricia Crossin, **Deputy Chair**, ALP, NT

Senator Andrew Bartlett, AD, QLD

Senator George Brandis, LP, QLD

Senator Linda Kirk, ALP, SA

Senator Joseph Ludwig, ALP, QLD

Senator Nigel Scullion, CLP, NT

Senator Russell Trood, LP, QLD

Secretariat

Ms Jackie Morris

A/g Secretary

Ms Ann Palmer

Principal Research Officer

Ms Julie Dennett

Principal Research Officer

Ms Julie Connor

Executive Assistant

Ms Marina Seminara

Estimates Officer

Suite S1.61

Parliament House

Telephone: (02) 6277 3560

E-mail: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Fax: (02) 6277 5794

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE	iii
ABBREVIATIONS	vii
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	ix
CHAPTER 1	1
INTRODUCTION	1
Background.....	1
Purpose of the Bill.....	1
Conduct of the inquiry.....	2
Acknowledgement.....	3
Privilege issue.....	3
Note on references.....	3
CHAPTER 2	5
KEY ISSUES.....	5
Is there a demonstrated need for the powers?	5
Proportionality between objects to be achieved and degree of intrusion.....	13
Distinction between Centrelink and other Commonwealth bodies	16
Training and cultural issues.....	18
Powers more appropriately exercised by Australian Federal Police.....	22
Oversight and accountability mechanisms	24
Other matters	26
Committee view.....	27
APPENDIX 1	29
SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED.....	29
TABLED DOCUMENTS.....	31

APPENDIX 2	33
WITNESSES WHO APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE	33
Canberra, Friday 10 November 2006	33