

**Proposed Offences for Sedition in
the Anti-Terrorism (No.2) Bill 2005**

To the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee.

We write to express our concerns regarding the inclusion of *sedition laws* in the current anti-terrorism legislation.

We understand that we already have appropriate laws to cover such acts as: racial vilification, terrorist acts and terrorist funding and membership of banned organisations

We don't believe that the ramifications for the inclusion of these sedition laws has been thought through especially with regard to those who wish to critique governments both federal and state, or by those bodies or individuals who believe it is important that to be informed, we need to have access to all points of view - for example, journalists, educators, authors, artists and religious leaders.

We fear that our freedom of speech and assembly will be compromised by such laws.

We therefore ask the inquiry to recommend that the laws regarding sedition be expunged from the Anti-Terrorism Bill.

Yours faithfully,

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