

Catharine Errey  
Sandy Bay, Tas

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The Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam  
Submission on the Anti -Terrorism Bill (No. 2) 2005

I am opposed to the provisions of the above proposed Bill for the following reasons: -

a.. A number of legal experts have stated that existing laws give police and ASIO sufficient powers to deal with any terrorist threats that arise.

b.. History demonstrated that kneejerk draconian reactions to perceived or actual terror threats are ineffective in preventing such terror events e.g. Europe in the latter nineteenth century.

c.. History also demonstrates, time and again, that police powers such as the proposed preventative detention orders are open to abuse. Australia has a large number of citizens who left their country of origin to escape such abuses of power. Our forefathers went to war so that we could maintain these basic freedoms.

d.. The presumption of innocence until proven guilty is a 'given' of our democratic way of life - to take away such a cornerstone of freedom is indeed to give a victory to terrorists.

e.. Provisions such as Random stop and search powers and Sedition reek of the U.S.S.R. or South Africa in the days of Apartheid.

Catharine Errey