

please accept this message as a submission to the inquiry.

I would thank the committee for the opportunity to participate, however that gratitude is overrun by frustration at the lack of time the public has been allowed to study and absorb this significant new law.

I am all for acting to stop terrorism. While we should have good laws to cover terrorist crimes, and appropriate powers to prevent them, it is also important to invest in preventative measures, such as fostering strong relationships with our neighbours, and working to alleviate global poverty.

I have two major areas of concerns in relation to the proposed Bill.

First, I am concerned that, in our concern to be adequately equipped to respond to terrorism, we risk denying those accused of such crimes of their human and civil rights.

After the revelations of atrocities at illegal u.s.(a.) prison camps (remember the naked 'dog on a leash'? and sparky, the hooded fella with electrodes on his extremities?)

many Australians are highly tuned to the potential for the human rights of certain individuals and communities to be lost to unbridled enthusiasm in the pursuit of alleged terrorists.

Please don't betray the good nature of Australians by introducing laws that could divide us, marginalise some sections of our nation and deprive some individuals (regardless of their alleged crimes) of fundamental human and civil rights.

Secondly, I am concerned that the new law paints with too broad a brush, and threatens to catch many other Australians in the heavy net being thrown out for terrorists.

I endorse concerns recently raised in parliament regarding the sedition provisions of this proposed Bill.

Many voices, including indigenous spokespeople, environment groups, ethnic groups and civil liberties groups, have raised serious concerns that these clauses could be applied against a wide range of Australian communities, to frustrate and criminalise traditional and otherwise legitimate methods of political, social and cultural progress.

In the limited amount of time we've been given to read the Bill, discuss it, and study comment from various sources, I have come to the conclusion that this new law amounts to thoughtcrime.

Given an appropriate level of information on and access to this flawed proposals,

I am sure that Australians would reject this attack of free speech, free association and free thought unanimously.

I wish the senate would do the same.

thanks,

-- justin

Justin Tutty
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