

14 November 2005

Senator M. A. Payne
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Senator M. A. Payne,

A letter with a couple of changes I sent to:

Submission to the Senate Committee: Anti Terror Laws

After past and more recent events I do understand the need to develop more effective strategies to avert attacks happening on Australian soil.

However I am concerned that these proposed anti terror laws will have a detrimental effect by dividing and traumatizing the nation.

I strongly encourage the Senate to support;

- Maintaining the right to freedom of speech. [without fear of reprisal from the government or its affiliations].
- Maintaining the rights of the courts to Habeas Corpus [the right of the prisoner being held to be seen in court].

I believe it is dangerous for the survival of democracy for the government to put itself beyond the reach of international laws for human rights.

- Saddam Hussein is on trial for abusing civil rights. His actions were made possible by having too much power and no accountability to the people or courts.
- Considering Australia has no bill of rights, I wish to see the Senate only pass laws that respect international laws on civil liberties. I wish to see the Senate question the present direction of too much secrecy and unaccountable governmental power. Please ask for more time and wider appropriate input.

I stand in witness.

Yours sincerely

[David Owen]