

Dear Senators,

I have e-mailed a slight variant of following letter to the President of the Senate for the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee to consider in its inquiry into the provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Bill (No. 2) 2005, and am sending this e-mail directly to the Committee in the event that my e-mail to the President of the Senate is not referred to the Committee.

I am concerned that a process leading to the best possible outcome is not being following in the drafting of the Anti-Terrorism Bill (No. 2) 2005. In particular, I am concerned that the Federal Government has not publically addressed the following questions before drafting the Bill:

- a.. What is the precise problem facing Australia?
- b.. What are some potential solutions?
- c.. How would legislation help achieve these solutions?
- d.. What are the positive and negatives of possible legislative responses?
- e.. What is the Government's preferred position?
- f.. What are the implications for civil liberties and public safety/security for each possible public policy?
- g.. Where is the evidence-based approach used in the construction of this legislation?

A close relative of mine asked me the question, "Is Australia is more danger now (from terrorism) than when the U.S.S.R. posed a potential threat?"; questions of this sort raise the issue that perspective is needed in the drafting of this legislation. I hope that all Senators, particularly those on the Committee, will carefully, thoughtfully and intelligently think about these questions.

Yours sincerely,

Sacha Blumen
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