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Hello,

I am an Australian Citizen who currently works in Silicon Valley in California. Every day I work with technology and I can see how it benefits people. I also see how easy it is to be used against innocent users.

I constantly see a lack of security in consumer and enterprise products.

I constantly see an un-willingness for companies to practice good security in the hopes of cutting cost.

I constantly see security best practices ignored to meet deadlines.

In no other industry is this acceptable!

My car company doesn't skip the air bags to cut costs. They are forced to follow strict regulations for the benefit of all.

Now I see that not only is Australia NOT encouraging or forcing companies to look after their customers and Australian citizens, but in fact is doing the opposite. We both know that forced backdoors can NOT be implemented securely. At best forced backdoors as discussed in the Assistance and Access Bill will allow excessive and secretive Government oversight as well as third party access. We constantly see state sponsored attack by country's such as North Korea, China, Russia and Iran. Why now is the Australian Government trying to give them a helping hand in stealing people's information?

I know you don't call it a backdoor, but "317E(1)(c)provides installing, maintaining, testing or using software or equipment as an act or thing that may be specified in a technical assistance request" is the same result as a backdoor for the user, it just allows a minister to deny it in an interview.

Not to mention other sections such as 317E(1)(b) that will cause technology companies to leave Australia or even stop offering there services and products in Australia at the risk of being forced to hand over their corporate secrets. We should be encouraging innovation not hindering it with regulation and excessive Government power.

There are numerous other example (pretty much all of section 317E) that are either stifling innovation or a secret invasion of people's privacy and right to a free life.

This bill cannot go ahead in its form. It will drive technology companies from Australia costing us jobs, investment and world leadership, all for little gain. Security and privacy must be protected in a free and liberal country.

**Please do not allow the Assistance and Access Bill to pass.** Australia needs to be a

forward thinking world leader, not an example oppressive regions can use.

Alistair