

From: David Soul
To: [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)
Subject: Feedback against the The Assistance and Access Bill 2018
Date: Monday, 10 September 2018 7:24:17 PM

Dear Home Affairs staff, I'm employed in the Australian software industry and have expertise from working at companies such as Atlassian and my own Sydney-based tech startup.

I'm strongly opposed to your proposal to backdoor our software as per the The Assistance and Access Bill 2018, primarily because this technique has been proven historically to result in serious abuse by either third-parties or by the government agencies themselves. For example, refer to the break-in of Vodaphone Greece and other backdoor abuses at <https://blog.learningtree.com/backdoor-disasters/>

My professional opinion is that Australia will open itself to similar breaches as result of your backdoor legislation. Please do not introduce this bill. I would also encourage you to involve the technical community for consultation on the risks, and alternative options that can help improve your crimefighting capabilities without the need to introduce dangerous weaknesses in our software systems.

Feel free to contact me if you would like further information.

Cheers,
David Soul

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