

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)
Subject: We stand opposed
Date: Wednesday, 5 September 2018 11:13:52 AM

To those pushing "The Assistance and Access Bill 2018",

Digital has become the primary medium of communication in the last decade. More so than simple speech or paper ever were or will be again.

What we say and do in private is assumed to be private, whether that is talking to our doctor or buying groceries online or managing hundreds of remote machines from the office.

This basic assumption is being challenged by this bill and similar. You've tried before and you're trying again now and I suspect you'll try again in the future.

Your attempt to infiltrate and undermine our privacy under the tired auspices of "terrorism" and "omg child abuse" is not going unnoticed and it is already having chilling effects. We're moving our data overseas. We're not hiring Australian technology workers. We're wiping our phones and laptops before visiting Australia. We use VPNs to tunnel out of Australia. We don't trust the DNS of Australian ISPs, etc.

There are also many beneficial effects. For example, encryption and knowledge about encrypted communications and data, privacy rights and abuses are now forefront in the news and the minds of policy makers and technology workers as a *direct result* of these attacks. It looks like this bill is itself a response to this rise in improved security and in response to -it-, even if it doesn't pass, there will be greater awareness of the Australian government's adversarial relationship to it's governed.

We're already tightening our security, against intruders that include the Australian government, and we're insisting our partners and clients and contractors do the same. It's an arm's race and every time you fail our tooling and processes become stronger and more resistant and our resolve to stand opposed is reinforced. We can't avoid working in Australia (or the UK or NZ or Canada or US), but we can marginalise the negative effects of doing so. Indeed, the GDPR requires us to do so.

Pushing such bills is ruining Australia's already damaged technology reputation and shrinking it's pool of talent, making it a literal backwater: stagnant, poisoned and to be avoided.

Even if the bill were cancelled and a public apology made, acknowledging the totalitarian path it was travelling down and drawing parallels with the Gestapo, I'm convinced the damage will have been done. You've demonstrated your intentions and the total lack of awareness of why encryption is absolutely necessary in all digital communications.

It doesn't matter who this author is or represents, we stand opposed.