Dear Minister

I write to express my concerns over the draft legislation titled 'The Assistance and Access Bill 2018', and outline these concerns below.

I am an experienced software developer and have worked for software as a service providers within Australia. As such I have worked with and interacted with the very security mechanisms that your bill is attempting to interfere with.

Encryption is a fundamental part of securing users data from access by unauthorised third parties. It is simply not practical to weaken current security practises in such a way that only gives the government access to this information without increasing the possibility of other bad actors getting access.

Given how easy it is for individuals to setup their own completely private communications infrastructure - this bill would only weaken the security of innocent individuals without improving the capabilities of intelligence organisations to fight crime.

I also worry that this may impact the ability of Australian companies to offer services to more privacy focused regions - like the EU.

I urge you to actually engage in meaningful conversation with the industry that actually understands the technology you are trying to regulate - you are clearly out of your depth with what you are trying to legislate. Legislation like what you are proposing (even with the best of intentions) will have significant negative side effects.

Thank you

Michael Oates