

**From:** Nikolaj Goodger  
**To:** [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Concerns regarding assistance bill.  
**Date:** Monday, 10 September 2018 11:28:35 AM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

While I can clearly see that this Bill is based on good intentions. I feel very strongly that it is a mistake and I feel obliged to raise my concern that it will:

1. Fail to grant access to communication where it is needed most. Encryption algorithms and software are open source and freely available. If encryption algorithms are compromised in commonly used tools like Messenger or WhatsApp people who really want privacy will inevitably have other options open to them which will not be impossible to police. The most biggest threats from terrorism and organised crime would have the resources and be technically savvy enough to build their own secure tools from freely available source code without any backdoors or keys outside their control.

2. Undermine the privacy, security of the Australian people.  
The weaknesses created in encryption algorithms to facilitate this bill can also be used maliciously as they may create unforeseen weaknesses discoverable and exploitable by unintended parties. The process by which the weaknesses are intended to be used could also similarly be abused. Privacy is no longer protected from government. So in the unlikely but not implausible event it becomes malicious there is no way for people to easily communicate freely without being persecuted.

3. Undermine our ability to compete in the technology space.  
International customers would justifiably be concerned about their privacy when communicating in Australia, hosting data in Australia. Consider the situation with Huawei supporting 5G in Australia. Would other countries trust products or services we provide to be secure?

Best regards,  
Nikolaj Goodger