

**From:** Pauline Pounds  
**To:** [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to consultation on the Assistance and Access Bill 2018  
**Date:** Friday, 7 September 2018 8:02:12 PM

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Dear Minister

I write to write my dismay at the proposed legislation 'The Assistance and Access Bill 2018'. This bill demonstrates a laughable understanding of the mathematical principles behind encryption that risks making Australia a laughing stock internationally.

To bring this legislation into effect would innately cripple the utility of encryption by baking insecurity into platforms. By requiring companies disclose information on the function of their systems, you are giving bad actors all the tools needed to compromise not just high-value systems, but any value systems - the systems we depend upon every day to enact electronic commerce, innovation and enterprise. This will not just effect the Little Guy, but will have a chilling effect on any investment in Australia in the digital domain.

Giving government powers to force companies to provide information or change their systems is a slippery slope to tyranny and abuse. And even if you think that your ministry and that of your peers would wield that power wisely, you cannot guarantee that bad actors who make be put into positions of authority in the future would have noble intentions. There are no threats so pressing that they make compromising the integrity of our communications systems a worthwhile trade-off.

Australian government organisations that lack oversight or limits on their information gathering become an attractive toll for those who would stifle political dissent, irrespective of its perceived threat. This becomes increasingly disturbing when one considers how intelligence sharing treaties with other nations could turn Australia into a conduit for domestic spying in other countries in violation of guaranteed protections to foreign citizens by their host countries. We are not an end-run around the rights of others- that is not who we are.

And remember - these are the same systems that you also rely on for the protection and use of your own wealth and resources. If you won't reconsider for us, then reconsider for yourselves.

Pauline Pounds  
