

From: Roy Govier
To: [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)
Subject: Submission to consultation on the Assistance and Access Bill 2018
Date: Wednesday, 5 September 2018 3:38:56 PM

Dear Minister

I write to express my concerns over the draft legislation titled 'The Assistance and Access Bill 2018', and urge you and your colleagues to reconsider the impact this type of legislation would have and ultimately scrap the Bill.

Broadly, this Bill is predicated upon fundamental misconceptions about the digital world and how encryption is both built and implemented. While the plots from TV series '24' can make the idea of emergency access to encrypted information seem like a good safeguard for society, weakening ANY security system is bad news as it makes that system weak for EVERYBODY - not just the well-meaning law enforcement officers and government investigators trying to save lives.

Physical security skeleton keys, like those used by the TSA for luggage locks, or speciality screw head shapes used by security barrier manufacturers have already leaked into the hands of thieves who enjoy sharing the same easy access to our belongings as those entrusted with safeguarding it.

Likewise, any top-secret back-door digital skeleton keys are themselves vulnerable to theft or compromise, and we've already seen rapid exploitation of digital security loopholes in Intel processors and website database technology in recent years.

To render every personal device insecure may occasionally help target or prosecute a terrorist or criminal, but for the 23.5 million other Australians relying on digital security for their personal and professional safety, this Bill leaves them at the mercy of the first hacker who discovers whatever government mandated exploitation lurks on their device.

I urge the government to reconsider this Bill and seek their own independent education on the digital world in regards to encryption, as well as consider the massive privacy implications such legislation would have.

Thank you

Roy Govier
