

From: Tom Bowden
To: [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)
Subject: Concerns about the Assistance and Access Bill
Date: Wednesday, 5 September 2018 12:23:28 PM

To whom it may concern,

The draft legislation titled 'The Assistance and Access Bill 2018' would severely undermine Australians digital privacy and security online if enacted.

In an ideal world, benevolent government agents would be able to extract information from criminals devices and digital communications, however this is impossible to do without severely undermining the privacy and security Australians expect online.

Forcing companies to build backdoors into their systems is impossible to do securely without exposing it to huge security vulnerabilities. By building a backdoor, a weak point is exposed to bad actors, whether overseas or domestic hackers, or other nation states.

Furthermore, the wording of the draft legislation is so broad that even the most legitimate of activities could become illegal. It would be possible for instance for site owners such as myself to be fined for using encrypted HTTPS (which is rapidly becoming the standard over unencrypted HTTP).

Finally, I believe that this bill would be almost entirely useless. Criminals who need encryption would have no problem using overseas services that offered encryption with no regard for Australian law. It is relatively simple for them to even implement their own encryption and use it on backdoored systems.

The only thing this law does is erode the privacy, security, and ultimately the democratic freedoms of law abiding Australians.

Thank you
Tom Bowden