

Dear Communications Security Branch,

I remember very well the reasons for the original legislation as the volunteer organisation I help run had to implement changes to adhere to the laws as passed.

I remember the talking points used to help the legislation become law, with the words "terrorists" and "paedophiles" being used to convince people that the intent was to make sure that law officers were able to make use of retained metadata in their effort to catch nasty people.

I remember safeguards being put in place to prevent private data from being used in places other than in circumstances which would help in catching nasty people.

I see that only a few short years later, the original laws are now under consideration to be changed so that civil cases could access retained data. Do we, as residents of Australia, not have a right to be free from such deep oversight of our day to day affairs?

Should I live in fear that my telephone and email records, as clean as they are, will fall into the hands of a third party just because the law says it can?

Please understand that my liberty, my family's liberty, my community's liberty, and all of Australia's liberty is something to be respected, not something to be ignored. I find this proposal to be against everything that I've grown up to believe in, which is that Australia is a great place to be, a land that embraces diversity, that applauds excellence, that appreciates beauty. For all this to happen, we need to live without fear, but sadly, this legislation assumes the complete opposite.

Sorry, but that's not what I was brought up to believe in.

I ask that my name be not made public as I do value my privacy.

Regards