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30 July 2013

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Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
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To the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

Endorsement - Telecommunications Amendment (Get a Warrant) Bill 2013

Liberty Victoria is one of Australia's leading human rights and civil liberties organisations. It is concerned with the protection and promotion of civil liberties throughout Australia. As such, Liberty is actively involved in the development and revision of Australia's laws and systems of government. Further information on our activities may be found at www.libertyvictoria.org.au.

Liberty Victoria supports the adoption of the Telecommunications Amendment (Get a Warrant) Bill 2013 and its passage into law. In 2012 the UN Special Rapporteurs underscored the right to privacy as a necessary one that governments should guarantee. We support the inclusion of mechanisms in this Bill that strengthen the right to privacy by requiring ASIO to apply for a warrant for existing and prospective information.

We support the inclusion of prospective and existing information as an area requiring a warrant (item 1) and ensuring that accessing information without a warrant is no longer lawful (item 18).

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this submission further please contact Gillian Garner through the Liberty Victoria office on 9670 6422 or info@libertyvictoria.org.au. This is a public submission and is not confidential.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Dixon'.

Jane Dixon SC
President
Liberty Victoria