



**Senator the Hon Jan McLucas**  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister  
Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers

Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: 02 6277 3680  
Fax: 02 6277 5721

Reference no: C12/5436

**21 APR 2012**

Dr Kristine Klugman  
President  
Civil Liberties Australia Inc  
PO Box 7438  
FISHER ACT 2611

Dear Dr Klugman

Thank you for your letter of 26 January 2012 to the Prime Minister suggesting a national inquiry to assess the impact of counter-terrorism measures on the lives of ordinary Australians since 11 September 2001. The Prime Minister has requested that I respond to your letter on her behalf. I apologise for the delay in replying.

The Australian Government is committed to protecting Australians from acts of terrorism. Our response combines the maintenance of effective laws and the collection of intelligence with a range of measures such as law enforcement, aviation and maritime security, border control and emergency response capabilities.

The Government is mindful of the impact of security measures on the lives of Australians. But at the same time, we are determined to keep Australia and its people safe from the threat of terrorist acts. Unfortunately, Australians have been killed and seriously wounded by terrorist attacks overseas and a number of planned domestic attacks have been foiled.

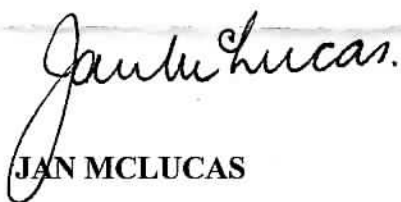
Our counter-terrorism legislation has undergone significant reform in recent years and continues to be carefully and properly scrutinised. As you may be aware, in April 2011 Mr Bret Walker SC was appointed as Australia's inaugural Independent National Security Legislation Monitor under the *Independent National Security Legislation Monitor Act 2010*.

The Monitor's role is to review the operation, effectiveness and implications of Australia's counter-terrorism and national security legislation, and report to the Prime Minister on an ongoing basis. This appointment reflects the Government's commitment to protecting the security of Australia, its people and its interests, while ensuring that our national security and counter-terrorism laws operate in accordance with the rule of law and are consistent with our international human rights obligations.

The Government has also amended legislation to allow the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security to extend inquiries into the actions of the Australian intelligence community to other agencies as appropriate. One example of that increased scrutiny was demonstrated through the IGIS' recent released report into the actions of Australian agencies in the arrest and detention overseas of Mr Mamdouh Habib.

In light of the vast amount of work already done and continuing to be undertaken in relation to assessing, reviewing and evaluating the Government's counter-terrorism measures, I do not believe there is a need for an inquiry at this time.

Yours sincerely



JAN MCLUCAS