

MEDIA ALERT

**PUBLIC HEARING OF THE INDEPENDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY LEGISLATION MONITOR**

**THE OPERATION, EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPLICATIONS OF
AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE *TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
(ASSISTANCE AND ACCESS) ACT 2018***

Date: Thursday, 20 February (all day) –
Friday 21 February 2020 (half day)

Time: 8:15am for 8:45am start

Location: QT Hotel (Eureka Room) – 1 London Circuit, Canberra

Dr James Renwick CSC SC, the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor (INSLM), will hold a public hearing as part of his review of the operation, effectiveness and implications of amendments made by the *Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment (Assistance and Access) Act 2018* (Cth) (the Act). The Act has attracted significant interest, including in the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

The INSLM is undertaking this review following a reference from the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS). The PJCIS is conducting a separate review of the Act by 30 September 2020. The INSLM will report by **30 June 2020** so that the report is available to assist the PJCIS' review.

The INSLM is specifically considering whether the Act contains appropriate safeguards for protecting the rights of individuals; remains proportionate to any threat of terrorism or to the threat to national security, or both; and remains necessary. In conducting this review, the INSLM has engaged closely with industry, government agencies and civil society in Australia, the USA and the UK.

The public hearing will be attended by government agencies, the legal profession, industry and public interest groups. A copy of the program will be available on the INSLM website prior to the public hearing and the hearings will be livestreamed on www.inslm.gov.au.

Media are invited to film and photograph the opening session (8:45am – 9:15am) which will commence with opening remarks from Dr Renwick CSC SC.

Media organisations are also welcome to observe the duration of the public hearing, noting that any enquiries regarding attendees should be directed to the relevant agency or industry group. A copy of relevant media contacts will be available at the public hearing. For ease of access, the INSLM asks that media organisations register their attendance in advance.

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To register media attendance, please email inسلم@inسلم.gov.au by **12pm Tuesday, 18 February 2020** and provide the following information:

- Name
- Organisation
- Role (e.g. journalist, photographer, camera, sound)
- Mobile
- Email

Members of the public do not need to register and are welcome at any stage of the public hearing.

Please refer to the INSLM website www.inسلم.gov.au for further information.

FOR ENQUIRIES

Contact Mark Mooney, Principal Adviser, on 02 6141 4593 or via email on Mark.Mooney@inسلم.gov.au or the INSLM Office on 02 6141 4590/inسلم@inسلم.gov.au.

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