

Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

ATTORNEY GENERAL MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
MINISTER FOR ARTS, HERITAGE & INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

Dr U Ne Oo,
18 Shannon Place,
Adelaide SA 5000

15 November 2005

Dear Dr Oo,

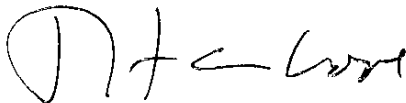
Thank you for writing to express your concerns regarding the draft counter-terrorism legislation. I am heartened that my decision to release the draft legislation has provided the opportunity for debate on the issue. I believe strongly that this was a matter that deserved the greatest possible transparency and a healthy degree of public and expert consultation.

In September the Council of Australian Governments unanimously agreed that a new suite of laws was needed to combat terrorism. As Chief Minister of the ACT I agreed to the pursuit of these new laws, on the basis of pledges from the Prime Minister that they would be proportionate, adhere to Australia's international human-rights obligations, and involve real judicial oversight and review.

I believe that the public scrutiny of the draft resulted in real and significant changes to the legislation that will now be debated by the Federal Parliament. While I am not yet satisfied that the Prime Minister's assurances have been fully met, and could not agree to the laws in the period granted me, I am hopeful that further changes may be achieved and that the freedoms and rule of law that are the bedrock of our way of life can be preserved.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely



Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister

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