



Legislation Committee  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Mr Mischin, Dr Talbot, Ms Davies, Ms Morton and Ms Xamon

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AMENDMENT BILL 2009**

I would like to endorse the submission by the SCALES Community legal Centre on the Criminal Investigation Amendment Bill 2009.

I have grave concerns that if this legislation is passed then many innocent people will be affected. I believe that the Police Service currently have the necessary powers to search a person of interest.

This legislation is more likely to breach more rights than it will protect.

My greatest concern is the likelihood to introduce to the Court and prison system a new group of people who would otherwise never have any involvement. These people would not be law breakers but those who are visible to the Police, young people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with mental health issues or simply people in the wrong place at the wrong time.

If I walk past a rally in an area that has been prescribed or declared area, then a Police Officer can search me, even if I have no association with the people gathering and the Officer has no reason to suspect me of any criminal activity.

I can see how this could escalate into an argument and the potential for arrests to happen with charges of hindering and others made. I would certainly attempt to assert my rights.

SCALES notes research that shows that other states and countries have tried this legislation with no success. I believe that we should look to their finding and not waste any more public money, better spend on facilities and services for those vulnerable members of our community more likely to be adversely affected by this legislation than to benefit from it. Development of legislation that is inappropriate and breaches human rights and has already been found in other places to be of little value does not show this government and therefore this state in good light.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gai Walker'.

Gaibrielle Jane WALKER