

**Bev Jowle****From:** Bev Jowle**Sent:** Monday, 18 January 2010 2:17 PM**To:****Subject:** Endorsement of Submission - Criminal Investigations Amendment Bill

To the members of the Criminal Investigations Amendment Bill 2009

On behalf of the South Coastal Women's Health Services, (PO Box 709, Rockingham 6168) we offer our support to the submission prepared by the SCALES Community Legal Centre in regard to the Criminal Investigations Amendment Bill, currently calling for public submissions.

As an organisation that provides service to women we are concerned about the current powers in the Bill including restriction on movement and freedom of speech. Many of the women who contact our organisation are very vulnerable and we are concerned that about the impact of the issues raised in the SCALES submission. We endorse the following conclusions from the SCALES submission.

SCALES asks that the Committee consider the negative impact such laws would have on justice in Western Australia. Far from providing increased safety, these laws will diminish the human and civil rights of Western Australians. It will have a disproportionate impact on those more vulnerable and street present such as the young, aboriginal and homeless. Most importantly, it would fundamentally change the nature of our society. Reasonable suspicion has long been an important element in the balance between public order and personal liberty.

In our view, existing laws amply provide the power to conduct a search on a person if police have concerns or suspect they are a danger. The removal of that safeguard, in our view, tips the balance too much and topples us towards totalitarianism.

Yours sincerely

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