

Conclusion

“We must not silently allow any incremental erosion of our fundamental freedoms.”¹¹⁴

Through the investigation of the increase in anti-terrorism legislation which pertains to remove and restrict civil and human rights that are at the core of a democratic society, it is concluded that the introduction of said legislation has limited aspects such as the rule of law, the protection of the presumption of innocence and the right to privacy that are at the core of the definition of a free and democratic Australia. Discourse on the threat of terrorism has posited that the removal of key rights is a necessary sacrifice for the ensured safety of the nation’s security. However, in the same way that Winston Churchill once stated during the Second World War, ‘If we reduce funding in art and culture for the war effort, what are we fighting for?’¹¹⁵. If the rights and freedoms being sacrificed are the basic tenets of a democratic nation, then the core elements of that nation worth protecting are no longer present.

As consequence of this investigation, my proposed hypothesis, “the rights and freedoms of Australian citizens have been sacrificed as a result of the changing national understanding of a ‘crisis’, which is damaging the notion of democracy”, was proven to a large extent. However, the justification of these removals of rights is valid as it represents a major portion of the opinions of the policymaking institutions. Due to time constraints and investigatory ability, during the course of the project many limitations arose, which impacted the validity of the results. Despite attempts to prevail objectively, influence of personal beliefs, morals and ethics was unavoidable, resulting in subconscious subjective connotations and interpretations throughout.

The triangulation of primary research methodologies: a questionnaire, an interview, a focus group and a content analysis propagated a thorough investigation and understanding of the effect that anti-terrorism legislation was and is having on the civil and human rights of Australian citizens. The results of the interview, conducted with Mark Rix, Senior Lecturer of the Sydney Business School and Author of Anti-terrorism research papers, though limited by the use of email, proved to be most useful in giving qualitative instruction from a professional

¹¹⁴ Commonwealth, Parliamentary Debates, House of Representatives, 4 December 2008, 12551–2 (Kevin Rudd). 10 June 2015

¹¹⁵ Skeptics.stackexchange.com., 'Did Winston Churchill Say We Should Not Cut Art Funding?'. N.p., 2015. Web. 10 June 2015.

