68. C Smith

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From: Smith, Caroline

Dear Sir

I understand that there is currently an Invasions of Privacy Inquiry in the context of the digital era.

I live in South Australia.

In November 2013 we discovered that our neighbour had mounted a surveillance camera from his second storey balcony that is pointed directly onto our back garden and swimming pool that is used by our 10-year old daughter and her friends (it is not pointed at his property or boundary and is too high to block by screens etc). Our neighbour is a reclusive with whom all previous communications have been fruitless, resulting in highly stressful conflict- such that we are fearful to approach him about the camera as we are very anxious about how he might respond and/or behave.

We are unsure of the intent of his positioning of this camera.

We have been through a process of discussion with the local police, the local council and a lawyer and we have been shocked and surprised to discover that whilst "morally wrong" there is no law against this. We have also been surprised to hear how common this scenario is.

We are professional people who cope well in high-stress working environments, but I have been experiencing a high level of anxiety- near panic attack- when in the back garden under a constant prying eye. We are reluctant to be forced out of our home by the behaviour of another, but are considering this as an option.

I am very pleased to discover that there is an Inquiry into Privacy Principles in the context of the "Digital Era", and I implore the Inquiry to regard the use of surveillance cameras as a "serious invasion of privacy".

The invasion of our privacy (and the unknown intent of the surveillance) is having a serious impact on our quality of life and our mental health.

I would be keen to be involved in any further public submission process, and I am most interested in whether or not the use of surveillance cameras is being addressed as part of this Inquiry.

yours sincerely

Dr Caroline Smith