



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **RE: COALITION TO REVIVE IDENTITY CARD**

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) is the country's leading privacy advocacy organisation. “We find it appalling that newspapers stories today claim the Coalition plan to use the Health Identifier (HI) number to introduce an Australian Identity Card if elected tomorrow” said says Chair of the Health Sub Committee, Dr Juanita Fernando [1]. She continues, “Our submissions, such as to the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC) of August 2009, repeatedly warn of this event. Professor Graham Greenleaf illustrated the similarities between the Australia card proposal, the Access card proposal and the HI number proposal in our submission to AHMAC last year”. The Coalition plans to use the HI database to identify every individual that receives government benefits [1].

She continues, “The Coalition plans to use the national health identification scheme to achieve cost savings in health and welfare despite the risks to privacy, not to mention of identity fraud, to Australian citizens”, says Dr Fernando.

“The HI numbers were allocated to all Australian citizens from July, 2010, although they can't be used in any but government controlled environments”, says Dr Fernando. “No wonder the HI legislation received bipartisan support in the Senate earlier this year. When will the farce end?”

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Contact Details for the APF and its Board Members are at:  
<http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Contacts.html>

[1] Tim Colebatch, Coalition to revive identity card. Theage.com.au August 20, 2010.  
<http://www.theage.com.au/federal-election/coalition-to-revive-identity-card-20100819-12s11.html>