

Spot the difference: national ID card proposals



Australia
Card
1986 – 87

vs.

Access
Card
2006 – ?



What makes a national ID card system?



- A unique ID number for every person
- Scheme is national, covering effectively every man, woman and child
- Adults will be issued with a card, showing their photo
- A national ID number is included on the card
- A national population database will hold names, date of birth, photos, ID numbers and addresses of every adult



What else has been proposed?



- Compulsory for access to Medicare
- Compulsory for claiming social security benefits (like the 'baby bonus', carer's allowance, pension, Austudy or disaster assistance)



No

- Compulsory for claiming Veteran's benefits



Not invented yet

- A computer chip in the card to store extra data



Not invented yet

- A biometric photo (facial recognition technology)



- A compulsory registration process: every adult required to turn up, show their papers and be photographed



- The same agency responsible for Medicare will also hold the national population database



- Not required by law to carry it – but in practice you'll have to



No

- Promoted as an all-purpose 'proof of identity' card



- Businesses and government agencies can ask to see your card if they want evidence of identity



- Police and other law enforcement agencies to have access to the database (no special protection)



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