



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

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[Secretary@privacy.org.au](mailto:Secretary@privacy.org.au)

<http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Contacts.html>

22 December 2009

The Hon Lindsay Tanner MP  
Minister for Finance and Deregulation

cc. Ms A. Steward, General Manager, AGIMO

Dear Minister Tanner

**Re: 'Dealing with Government Online to be made Simpler'**

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) is the country's leading privacy advocacy organisation. A brief backgrounder is attached.

For some years now, a representative of APF has been an active participant in consultations run by AGIMO in relation to the AGOSP project. Our understanding has been that the emergent design is privacy-friendly.

You issued a Media Release on 21 December 2009, headed 'Dealing with Government Online to be made Simpler'.

This made very general statements, did not mention the name of the project whose outcomes it was announcing, and provided no link to the policy itself.

The APF understands that the announcement did not relate to the AGOSP project. The subject-matter is so similar, however, that serious concern exists that this may be a parallel project. If so, then it appears that it may not have been the subject of consultation with public interest advocacy organisations.

Would you please provide us with sufficient information about the new policy that you announced on 21 December that the APF can evaluate its impact.

It would be very helpful to have that information promptly, as we are under pressure from the media to state our position on the matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Roger Clarke  
Chair, for the APF Board  
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## **Australian Privacy Foundation**

### **Background Information**

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) is the primary national association dedicated to protecting the privacy rights of Australians. The Foundation aims to focus public attention on emerging issues that pose a threat to the freedom and privacy of Australians. The Foundation has led the fight to defend the right of individuals to control their personal information and to be free of excessive intrusions.

The APF's primary activity is analysis of the privacy impact of systems and proposals for new systems. It makes frequent submissions to parliamentary committees and government agencies. It publishes information on privacy laws and privacy issues. It provides continual background briefings to the media on privacy-related matters.

Where possible, the APF cooperates with and supports privacy oversight agencies, but it is entirely independent of the agencies that administer privacy legislation, and regrettably often finds it necessary to be critical of their performance.

When necessary, the APF conducts campaigns for or against specific proposals. It works with civil liberties councils, consumer organisations, professional associations and other community groups as appropriate to the circumstances. The Privacy Foundation is also an active participant in Privacy International, the world-wide privacy protection network.

The APF's Board comprises professionals who bring to their work deep experience in privacy, information technology and the law.

The following pages provide access to information about the APF:

- papers and submissions <http://www.privacy.org.au/Papers/>
- resources <http://www.privacy.org.au/Resources/>
- media <http://www.privacy.org.au/Media/>
- Board-members <http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Contacts.html>

The following pages outline several campaigns:

- the Australia Card (1985-87)  
<http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Formation.html>
- Consumer Credit Reporting (1988-89)  
<http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/CreditRpting/>
- the Medicare Smart Card (2004-06)  
[http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID\\_cards/MedicareSmartcard.html](http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID_cards/MedicareSmartcard.html)
- the Human Services Card (2005-06)  
[http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID\\_cards/HSCard.html](http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID_cards/HSCard.html)
- the Australia Card Mark II (2005-06)  
[http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID\\_cards/NatIDScheme.html](http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID_cards/NatIDScheme.html)
- the 'Access Card' (2006-07)  
[http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID\\_cards/HSAC.html](http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID_cards/HSAC.html)