THE HON LINDSAY TANNER MP

Minister for Finance and Deregulation

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Dealing with Government Online to Be Made Simpler

A new Australian Government policy on authentication services will make it simpler for citizens and businesses to interact with government online.

Minister for Finance and Deregulation Lindsay Tanner said a new whole of government policy would reduce the number of authentication services - tools used to verify the identity of individuals or organisations online - used by Australian Government departments and agencies.

"This new policy is in line with the Rudd Government's agenda to improve the delivery of government services to citizens," Lindsay Tanner said.

"Increasingly, Australian Government agencies are offering individuals and organisations the opportunity to create online accounts through which they can access government services.

"Along with minimising duplication of authentication services in use by the Federal Government, the *Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO*) is currently developing solutions that provide people with the option of combining multiple accounts."

As part of the new policy three lead agencies will be appointed early in 2010 to manage the delivery of authentication services across Australian Government agencies.

"Minimising the number of authentication services used by the Government will make dealing with Government online easier and it will save taxpayers money," Lindsay Tanner said.

"Importantly for individuals and businesses, preserving privacy is at the core of this policy and lead agencies will not have access to client information held by other agencies.

"This policy is another example of how the Rudd Government is improving whole-of-government management of ICT to drive greater efficiency and deliver better services."

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