

Date: Fri, 15 Apr 2011 12:45:26 +1000  
To: Peter.Soros@humanservices.gov.au  
From: Roger Clarke <Roger.Clarke@xamax.com.au>  
Subject: Re: Possible briefing on Human Services Legislation  
Cc: apfboard@privacy.org.au

Mr P. Soros  
National Manager  
Service Delivery Reform Business Planning  
Department of Human Services

Dear Mr Soros

I note that we have received no reply to my email (copy below), sent to Peter.Soros@humanservices.gov.au on Thu, 31 Mar 2011 at 14:19:47 +1000.

Thank you for your repeated invitation to APF to have a telephone briefing, which you communicated to Dr Juanita Fernando:

> Soros, Peter <Peter.Soros@humanservices.gov.au> wrote:  
> Further to my phone messages from the past two days, I'm writing to offer the Australian Privacy Foundation a briefing on the Human Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2010.  
> We would envisage that the briefing would be undertaken via teleconference and would run for approximately an hour. We could potentially provide the briefing next week. If you could make contact to agree a suitable time, that would be great. Once we have agreed a time, I will circulate an agenda for the briefing.

APF invests the time of its Board members in processes that are structured appropriately, such that our participation can make a difference.

Would you please advise:

- what comprehensive process you have in mind
- what documentation you would provide in advance of the briefing
- how the proposed one-hour telephone call would fit into that process
- whether it would address the issues raised in our Public Statement of 23 March, at <http://www.privacy.org.au/Papers/DHS-Merger-110323.pdf>

We further note that your Department has been reported as already breaking down the longstanding and vital barriers between the separate data collections relating to benefits schemes for which payments are processed by Centrelink. This is to the very serious detriment of the privacy of millions of Australians.

Do you propose to include a briefing on that matter within the one-hour session?

Yours sincerely

Roger Clarke  
Chair, for the Board of the Australian Privacy Foundation

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Date: Thu, 31 Mar 2011 14:19:47 +1000  
To: peter.soros@humanservices.gov.au  
From: Roger Clarke <Roger.Clarke@xamax.com.au>  
Subject: The DHS Merger Bill

Dear Peter

APF's Health SubCommittee Chair, Juanita Fernando, tells me that you've this afternoon offered APF a briefing on the Bill.

The sequence that should have been followed was for a PIA to be undertaken, with consultation with representatives of and advocates for relevant categories of people.

That wasn't done. At least, we were not engaged in any such process, we have heard nothing of any such process, there is no report to be found on the DHS site, and no report was presented to the Parliament.

The correct course of action is as follows:

1. withdraw the Bill from the table
2. commence a PIA
3. start that with a briefing of an appropriate set of advocacy organisations, including APF
4. receive, consider and respond to comments
5. amend the Bill to reflect the feedback
6. reintroduce the amended Bill

The APF would have always been pleased to participate in such a process, and would be pleased to do so now.

Regards ... Roger Clarke  
Chair, Australian Privacy Foundation

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> Peter Soros  
> National Manager  
> Service Delivery Reform Business Planning  
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