

Date: Tue, 22 Mar 2011 17:07:50 +1100

To: peter.soros@humanservices.com.au
From: Roger Clarke <Roger.Clarke@xamax.com.au>
Subject: The DHS Merger Bill
Cc: apfboard@privacy.org.au

Dear Peter

[Re: The Human Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2010

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