



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

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7 February 2007

Ms S. Spaseski  
Privacy and Policy Branch  
Office of Access Card

Dear Sylvia

I refer to the calls by Liz McIntyre and yourself on Tuesday 6 February. I understand that you were initially proposing a meeting to brief the Foundation, through me, in relation to the Government's second round of draft legislation, and its proposed approach to registration.

I expressed concern about the lack of response to the Foundation's fundamental concerns, which have been expressed in a succession of documents, including most recently in our Submission to the Office in relation to the first draft Bill, and in the revised Campaign page on our web-site. I also expressed concern that the meeting was intended to be only with your own Branch, even though the issues arise in relation to the design as a whole. It would be very unfortunate if the designers were to continue to be shielded from the high levels and broad spread of public concern, as a result of the use of both the Task Force and your Branch as barriers and filters rather than as facilitators of meaningful discussions.

I note that you are unable to discuss our Submission until you have clearance from your Minister, which you anticipate occurring within a fortnight. I further understand that you will call me next Monday 12 February to provide an update and hopefully set a time for a meeting.

In the meantime, I draw to your attention the current contents of the Foundation's web-page, with particular reference to the information and critique embodied in the FAQs and the Foundation's previous policy statements on the matter:

[http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID\\_cards/HSAC.html#FAQs](http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID_cards/HSAC.html#FAQs)

[http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID\\_cards/HSAC.html#APFPolicy](http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID_cards/HSAC.html#APFPolicy)

I also note that the Minister, who we wrote to immediately after the announcement of the Cabinet re-shuffle, does not appear to have acknowledged receipt.

Yours faithfully

Roger Clarke  
Chair, Australian Privacy Foundation  
(02) 6288 6916      [chair@privacy.org.au](mailto:chair@privacy.org.au)

## **Australian Privacy Foundation**

### **Background Information**

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) is the primary association dedicated to protecting the privacy rights of Australians. The Foundation aims to focus public attention on emerging issues which 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.

When necessary, the APF conducts campaigns 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 a participant in Privacy International, the world-wide privacy protection network. Where possible, it cooperates with and supports official agencies, but it is entirely independent - and often critical - of the performance of agencies set up to administer privacy legislation.

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 relevant campaigns:

- the Australia Card (1985-87)  
<http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Formation.html>
- 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 Human Services 'Access Card' (2006-)  
[http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID\\_cards/HSAC.html](http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID_cards/HSAC.html)