



**Australian
Privacy
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15 March 2008

Ms Judy Spence
Minister for Police and Corrective Services
PO Box 15195
City East QLD 4002

police@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Spence

Re: Biometrics of Visitors to Queensland Correctional Centres

I refer to the letters addressed to you regarding this matter dated 19 October 2007 and shortly afterwards. Thank you for the reply over your signature dated 23 November 2007. Our apologies that it has taken some time to respond.

Unfortunately, the staff you entrusted the drafting to failed to address the specific questions in the letter, or even the general points provided as headings.

The inappropriate application of biometrics is an extremely serious matter, and it is unacceptable for staff employed at taxpayer expense to adopt such avoidance measures.

We draw to your attention that it is declared Queensland Government policy to conduct a privacy impact assessment (PIA) where programs affect privacy, in order to provide documented assurance to the community that privacy issues have been identified, considered and appropriately addressed. Your Department has not done so in this instance, and very serious privacy issues exist.

The under-signed organisations repeat their formal request to you that the scheme be suspended pending a comprehensive privacy impact assessment. In the absence of a substantive response to that request, it will be necessary for us to escalate the matter.

Yours sincerely

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