



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

<http://www.privacy.org.au>

enquiries@privacy.org.au

With prior notice only:
G.P.O. Box 1196 Sydney NSW 2001

October 22nd 2008

Mr Peter Williams
Director, IM & T Health
Department of Human Services
VICTORIA

Dear Peter Williams

Re: Victoria's Whole of Health ICT strategy 2009-13

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) is the country's leading privacy advocacy organisation. A brief backgrounder is attached for information.

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Health Sub Committee of the APF.

We note the announcement of a process that will provide the foundation for Victoria's Whole of Health ICT strategy 2009-13 on the Victorian Government Health Information web site (<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/ictstrategy/>).

The page instructs readers to contact you for further information, hence this communication. We believe the process reported on the health information web page is a matter on which a privacy advocacy perspective is essential. We would therefore be pleased to contribute to a consultation on the topic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Juanita Fernando
Chair, Health Sub Committee
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Australian Privacy Foundation

Background Information

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

Where possible, the APF cooperates with and supports privacy oversight agencies, but it is entirely independent of the agencies that administer privacy legislation, and regrettably often finds it necessary to be critical of their performance.

When necessary, the APF conducts campaigns for or 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 an active participant in Privacy International, the world-wide privacy protection network.

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 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
- the Human Services Card (2005-06)
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
- the 'Access Card' (2006-07)
http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID_cards/HSAC.html