



Australian  
Privacy Foundation

8 July 2012

The Hon Jason Clare MP  
Minister for Home Affairs  
Jason.Clare.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

**Re: Body Scanning for Internal Drugs**

The signatories to this letter are the Chairs of the country's primary public interest organisations concerned with civil liberties and privacy.

We refer to your Media Release of 4 July 2012 – 'New technology to catch drug mules'.

We appreciate that appropriate measures are needed to address the problem. However, there are serious concerns about such aspects as:

- the processes whereby the powers to detain and to subject to examination are exercised
- the effectiveness of the technology, including the very low proportion of 'hits' among the people selected for examination
- the health impacts of the scanning technology – particularly for some population segments, such as pregnant women, people with prostheses and orthoses, aircrew, etc.
- controls over the behaviour of border staff

Your Media Release refers to working with the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) and to the development of a Privacy Impact Assessment. We note, however, that the previous PIA related only to the proposal to impose external scanning technology on departing passengers. It did not encompass internal scanning, which is inherently far more invasive.

Would you please:

- (1) advise on what basis the Privacy Commissioner was involved in this matter
- (2) advise which public interest advocacy organisations participated in the PIA process
- (3) provide us with copies of, or pointers to, all available information on the matter, particularly in relation to the technology proposed, the processes and controls to be applied, and the justification presented in support of the trial
- (4) provide us with the PIA Report arising from the process

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

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