



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

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

Secretary@privacy.org.au

<http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Contacts.html>

9 October 2010

Mr Kos Sclavos
National President
Pharmacy Guild of Australia
Level 2, 'Pharmacy Guild House'
15 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600
Email: guild.nat@guild.org.au

Dear Mr Sclavos

Re: Project Stop

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

Concerns have been expressed to us about Project Stop.

We are not aware of any public consultations having been conducted in relation to the scheme and its design.

We note that the information gathered is sensitive, appears to be stored centrally, and appears to be widely accessible. It is unclear what the legal authority is for pharmacists to demand personal data from customers, and to refuse to sell over-the-counter medications purely because of a customer's refusal to provide sensitive personal data. Added to that, the public information on the site generally, and the privacy page in particular, are far from adequate.

This matter is of serious concern.

Would you please advise where we can acquire a detailed description of the scheme, and a copy of the report on the Privacy Impact Assessment.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

Roger Clarke
Chair, for the Board of the Australian Privacy Foundation
(02) 6288 1472 Chair@privacy.org.au

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 Board is supported by a Patron (Sir Zelman Cowen), and an Advisory Panel of eminent citizens, including former judges, former Ministers of the Crown, and a former Prime Minister.

The following pages provide access to information about the APF:

- Policies <http://www.privacy.org.au/Papers/>
- Resources <http://www.privacy.org.au/Resources/>
- Media <http://www.privacy.org.au/Media/>
- Current Board Members <http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Contacts.html>
- Patron and Advisory Panel <http://www.privacy.org.au/About/AdvisoryPanel.html>

The following pages provide outlines of several campaigns the APF has conducted:

- The Australia Card (1985-87)
<http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Formation.html>
- Credit Reporting (1988-90)
<http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/CreditRpting/>
- The Access Card (2006-07)
http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID_cards/HSAC.html
- The Media (2007-)
<http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/Media/>