



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

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

Secretary@privacy.org.au

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

24 April 2009

Mr Gary Banks
Chair
The Productivity Commission
Level 2, 15 Moore Street
Canberra City ACT 2600

Dear Mr Banks

Re: The Gambling Inquiry

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

We note the report in The Sydney Morning Herald of Friday 24 April 2009 ('Betfair wants access to medical records'). It suggests that Betfair has requested access to various records as part of its customer identity authentication processes.

We appreciate that this may be an endeavour on the company's part to convey how onerous identity authentication requirements would be for companies and how massively intrusive they would be for Betfair's customers.

The APF expresses very serious concern about any possibility that such highly sensitive personal data collected and maintained for purposes that have nothing to do with identity authentication, let alone gambling, would be made available to any company. This concern exists whether the organisation concerned is a gambling service-provider, a financial service-provider, or a government agency. Quite apart from the privacy-invasiveness, any such arrangements would facilitate identity fraud.

Would you please confirm that, in the event that your Commission places any credence in this aspect of Betfair's submission to you, you will consult with appropriate representative and advocacy organisations on the matter, including this organisation, Choice and civil liberties organisations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

Roger Clarke
Chair, for the Board of 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 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