



28 October 2011

Please Quote: MC00111/HV/db

Mr Roger Clarke, Chair, Australian Privacy Foundation
Mr Cameron Murphy, Chair NSW Council for Civil Liberties
Mr Spenser Zifcak, Chair, Liberty Victoria
Mr Michael Cope, Chair, Queensland Council for Civil Liberties
Dr Kristine Klugman, Chair, Civil Liberties Australia

GPO Box 5057
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Australia
DX 210643 Melbourne

Level 11
10-16 Queen Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Australia

Telephone +61 3 8619 8719
Local Call 1300 666 444
Facsimile + 61 3 8619 8700
Local Fax 1300 666 445

www.privacy.vic.gov.au
enquiries@privacy.vic.gov.au

Re: Biometrics

Thank you for your letter of 9th October 2011 regarding the use of biometrics.

Some of you may be aware that this recently became an issue in Victoria following a media report that a local council was planning to introduce the use of biometrics as part of its move to an electronic rostering system.

As a result of that matter coming to my attention, I became aware that there was indeed a push by some technology companies to sell biometrics products to organisations, including those regulated by the Victorian *Information Privacy Act 2000*.

As a result, I decided that I should provide some guidance to the Victorian Public Sector regarding any proposed use of a biometric scheme. This office is at present drafting some guidance in the form of an Information Sheet which I anticipate will be published by December of this year. In addition, our existing Information Sheet *Privacy in the Workplace* published in 2010 will be updated to include a section on biometrics.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads 'Helen K. Versey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

HELEN VERSEY
Privacy Commissioner