

ACCESS CARD NO WAY

accesscardnoway.net

Professor Allan Fels, AO
Chair, Consumer and Privacy Taskforce
Department of Human Services

26th July 2006

Dear Professor Fels,

Submission #1 – Discussion Process & Terms of Privacy Taskforce

Although your Discussion Paper #1 mentions submissions and gives a date for closing, there is a fundamental bias against participation in the submission process. There is not a single mention of the call for submission on the web pages of either the Office of Access Card, nor on the Consumer and Privacy Taskforce web page.

The Ministers statements in starting the Taskforce and in the Taskforce's Discussion Paper #1 simply call for minor ameliorations of the Access Card. The general concept and architecture is simply not included in this public policy process. I have a letter from a senator for Victoria that proclaims that we have had twelve months of robust discussion on the issue of Identity Documents and this Access Card is the result. It has been a very quiet debate. This Taskforce should be providing a means to discuss the whole concept of the Access Card and what it aims to achieve and whether it is the best means to do so.

Further to the issue of whether this scheme will be effective public policy – the filleting of the KPMG report makes informed debate on the issue of potential costs and benefits impossible. If we do not know how the \$1,100 million dollar price tag was arrived at we can't begin to tell whether there is net benefit, without even mentioning the large assumptions (again not clarified) on the savings to government.

The Taskforce should call for public engagement and a full enquiry - complete with all relevant departmental and consultant reports – to be undertaken in order to provide the people and parliament with the necessary information to decide on such an important public issue.

I look forward to hearing your views on this and the other submission. I remain,

Yours Sincerely,

Tim Warner
Convenor
Access Card No Way Campaign