

# ACCESS CARD NO WAY

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

26<sup>th</sup> July 2006

Dear Professor Fels,

## **Submission #3 – Community Costs: Financial and Personal**

The net benefit stated by the KPMG report, and noted on (p11) of Discussion Paper #1, is \$3,000 million over ten years; a period in which \$1,000,000 million will be expended on the relevant programmes. Therefore even if the undisclosed workings on the best-case scenario are correct then this scheme will save 0.3% of outlays.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) has noted these do not include the cost to industry of keeping and securing any pertinent data from the Access scheme, and neither the ACCI nor the KPMG report seem to mention the cost to other levels of Government of dealing with storage, collection and privacy regimes that will be required. This should be of immediate concern to the Federal Government as they now fund the lower two tiers of Government and these costs must be included in any cost benefit analysis.

The UK ID Card scheme is estimated to now cost 18,000 million pounds or three times the estimates of six months ago. It should be a lesson to those who wish to set open ended technical requirements on Government and the Health professions in implementing the Access Card.

Discussion Paper #1 does mention the need for compulsory interviews to obtain a voluntary Access Card (p20) and shows some concern over compliance problems for remote communities. The general philosophic issue of demands by Government for peoples compliance is not dealt with, and should be given due consideration in public debate. This Access Card will require a large commitment to the Government by the citizen. Although (yet again) specifics have not been published a fine for non-compliance with address and personal changes will be likely be included, the loss of the card will be particularly painful. Microsoft UK National Technology Officer Jerry Fishenden has commented upon the dangers of using bio-metric identifiers to underpin such a system, 'it is not going to be possible to provide you with new ones'. The time necessary to reissue cards will be a major call upon the citizen and should be made clear by those proposing the scheme.

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