



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

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G.P.O. Box 1196  
Sydney NSW 2001

enquiries@privacy.org.au

**Background report available from:  
www.privacy.org.au**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **'ACCESS CARD' - POOR PROCESS, DANGEROUS PRODUCT**

15 January 2007

The APF today publicly released its submission to the Department of Human Services regarding the exposure draft of the Government's first Access Card Bill.

The draft Bill makes clearer than ever that the project is intended to create a national identification scheme.

Australians are to be forced to have not just a single number, but also a single authorised 'legal name'. Each of us would also be forced to provide evidence that we're entitled to that name.

A 'central register' is to be created, to establish the hub of a national scheme to control Australian citizens.

"Not only is the register to contain a great deal of sensitive personal data, but the Department wants the authority to add new data, as it sees fit", said Nigel Waters, the Foundation's Policy Coordinator.

And the process is completely unreasonable. Information is being dripped out in instalments, to prevent the public from getting a clear picture of the proposal as a whole.

For the first instalment, an artificial deadline of 12 January was set, while the country was enjoying its summer holidays. It even appears that the Department is trying to avoid publication of the submissions it received.

The Foundation's submission is at:

**<http://www.privacy.org.au/Papers/DHS-AccessCardBill-070112.pdf>**

#### Contact Points for this Release:

Nigel Waters, Policy Coordinator, [info@privacy.org.au](mailto:info@privacy.org.au), (02) 4981 0828 or 0407 230 34  
Vice-Chair: David Vaile, [vicechair@privacy.org.au](mailto:vicechair@privacy.org.au), 0414 731 249