



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

Media enquiries:
Anna Johnston
Chair, Australian Privacy Foundation
Tel: 0400 432 241

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Hockey shows his true colours on ID Card

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“The Access Card will well and truly be a national ID card” – that is the verdict of the Australian Privacy Foundation, on Joe Hockey’s revelations about the Access Card design yesterday.

“By rejecting fundamental recommendations of his own Consumer and Privacy Taskforce, Joe Hockey has sealed the fate of his proposal” said Australian Privacy Foundation Chair, Anna Johnston, today.

“A universally-held card, with your name, signature, national identity number and biometric photo printed on it for all the world to see – that’s a national identity card,” she said.

The Australian Privacy Foundation, the leading non-government organisation dedicated to protecting the privacy rights of Australians, is today launching its “No ID Card” campaign.

In a speech tonight at a public forum on the Access Card, hosted by the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, Ms Johnston will present the arguments against the card.

“We will be outlining to the public why everyone should oppose the imposition of a national ID card,” she said. “A national ID card is unnecessary, unprecedented, unsafe and unpopular”.

“Mr Hockey’s idea of privacy protection is flawed – his laws will still allow banks, video rental stores, post offices, airlines, bus companies, movie theatres, and any other business or government agency to ask to see your Access Card before they provide you with goods or services, or give concession rates or discounts,” said Ms Johnston.

“Then using your national identity number from your card as the key, government agencies and even small businesses can start to track, link, match and profile all the disparate bits of data about you – what videos you rent, where you post parcels to, where you buy your bus tickets, what concessions you claim,” she said.

“We also believe it is stupid and risky, in this age of identity theft, to put all your identity eggs in one basket. The national population database will attract organised criminals to our identity data, like bees to a honeypot”, said Ms Johnston.

“The single card, single identity number, single database approach means only one card needs to be forged, only one public servant needs to be bribed, or only one database needs to be hacked into, to steal your identity,” she said.

The Australian Privacy Foundation’s Information Paper on the Access Card is available at www.privacy.org.au. PIAC’s public forum ***The proposed Smart Card - just how smart is it?*** commences 6.30pm, PricewaterhouseCoopers Legal, Level 10, Darling Park Tower 2, 201 Sussex Street, Sydney. Media welcome but RSVP essential: Carol Berry (02) 8898 6523.

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