



**Australian
Privacy
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MEDIA RELEASE

What does Joe Hockey have to hide?

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“Joe Hockey has already broken privacy promise number one on his so-called ‘access card’ project”, warned Australian Privacy Foundation Chair, Anna Johnston, today. “This does not auger well for the rest of the project”.

“The Minister promised us two weeks ago that he would publish the independent privacy advice he received on his proposal,” she said.

“Yesterday he broke that promise, by refusing to release the Privacy Impact Assessment report, that was prepared for him concurrently with KPMG’s preparing the business case,” said Ms Johnston.

The Australian Privacy Foundation, the leading non-governmental organisation dedicated to protecting the privacy rights of Australians, has again called on the Minister to release full details on the so-called ‘access card’ project, so the public can see exactly what the Government has planned.

“Minister Hockey says he won’t release the PIA because he thinks it is already ‘redundant’, because the project scope has changed. If that is the case, then the KPMG report must also be redundant”, said Ms Johnston.

“This throws into doubt all the major claims Mr Hockey has made, from the potential costs to the estimated benefits”, she said. “If he won’t release the reports, how can we trust that this project is at all well considered or balanced – or will even work?”

“Mr Hockey keeps assuring us that privacy is foremost in his mind – and yet he refuses to demonstrate that he has accepted a single one of the recommendations made to him to date.”

“So far he has rejected recommendations of an independent authority to run the national population database he’ll be creating; an independent oversight committee; and specific authorising legislation to protect privacy”, she said. “Now he won’t even release the Privacy Impact Assessment – a report that he commissioned.”

“No more spin Mr Hockey – we want details”, said Ms Johnston today.

“The public has a right to know exactly how the so-called ‘access card’ is going to impact on their daily lives”, she said. “Right now, this project has all the hallmarks of a national identity card, which Australians have consistently rejected”.

“Come on Mr Hockey, release the Privacy Impact Assessment. Unlike the 20 million Australians whose lives will be under your scrutiny if this project goes ahead, if you’ve got nothing to hide, you’ve got nothing to fear!”