15 March 2008

Ms Judy Spence  
Minister for Police and Corrective Services  
PO Box 15195  
City East   QLD  4002  

police@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Spence

Re: Biometrics of Visitors to Queensland Correctional Centres

I refer to the letters addressed to you regarding this matter dated 19 October 2007 and shortly afterwards. Thank you for the reply over your signature dated 23 November 2007. Our apologies that it has taken some time to respond.

Unfortunately, the staff you entrusted the drafting to failed to address the specific questions in the letter, or even the general points provided as headings.

The inappropriate application of biometrics is an extremely serious matter, and it is unacceptable for staff employed at taxpayer expense to adopt such avoidance measures.

We draw to your attention that it is declared Queensland Government policy to conduct a privacy impact assessment (PIA) where programs affect privacy, in order to provide documented assurance to the community that privacy issues have been identified, considered and appropriately addressed. Your Department has not done so in this instance, and very serious privacy issues exist.

The under-signed organisations repeat their formal request to you that the scheme be suspended pending a comprehensive privacy impact assessment. In the absence of a substantive response to that request, it will be necessary for us to escalate the matter.

Yours sincerely

Roger Clarke  
Chair, Australian Privacy Foundation   
(02)  6288 6916   chair@privacy.org.au

Michael Cope  
President, Queensland Council for Civil Liberties  
(07)  3223 5939   MCope@mckayslaw.com

Matilda Alexander  
Coordinator, Prisoners' Legal Service  
(07)  3846 5074   matilda@plsqld.com