



Judy Spence MP
Member for Mount Gravatt



Office of the
**Minister for Police and
Corrective Services**

23 NOV 2007

Mr Roger Clarke
Chair
Australian Privacy Foundation
GPO Box 1196
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Clarke

Thank you for your letter of 19 October 2007 outlining your concerns regarding the use of biometric scanning of visitors to correctional centres.

Biometric scanning is used at correctional centres to enhance security and improve the efficiency of processing visitors and staff entering the facility. At the initial visit a finger print template is created, a photo is taken and the visitor's identity verified by sighting identification documents. For subsequent visits the visitor presents their finger for scanning together with their photo identification. After their identity and entitlement to visit is confirmed, the visitor is permitted to enter the correctional centre. Visitors to correctional centres are made aware of the use of biometric testing through prominent notices displayed at all correctional centres and through facts sheets relating to visits.

Wow.

I can confirm that Queensland Corrective Services is implementing the biometric system to facilitate the processing of visitors to Queensland's correctional centres. It is not currently used as a form of identification and visitors are still required to present appropriate identification to gain entry to a correctional centre as required by the *Corrective Services Act 2006*.

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The *Corrective Services Act 2006* (section 155(6)) requires that visitors to correctional centres apply for, and be granted access approval by the Chief Executive before visiting a centre. When granting access approval, the Chief Executive (or his delegate) has discretion to impose certain conditions on an access approval. One of the conditions imposed on a visitor's access approval is that the visitor must participate in the biometric system to assist with visits processing.

not relevant

The Agency is aware of its obligations to maintain the privacy of all persons who come into contact with the corrective services system including visitors. The Agency is committed to the Information Privacy Principles set out in Information Standard 42, which is the administrative scheme applicable to Queensland agencies. It is not mandatory for agencies to conduct a privacy impact assessment under the current administrative scheme.

+ to correctional centres?

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