Spot the difference: national ID card proposals


What makes a national ID card system?
- A unique ID number for every person
- Scheme is national, covering effectively every man, woman and child
- Adults will be issued with a card, showing their photo
- A national ID number is included on the card
- A national population database will hold names, date of birth, photos, ID numbers and addresses of every adult

What else has been proposed?
- Compulsory for access to Medicare
- Compulsory for claiming social security benefits (like the ‘baby bonus’, carer’s allowance, pension, Austudy or disaster assistance)
  - No
- Compulsory for claiming Veteran’s benefits
  - Not invented yet
- A computer chip in the card to store extra data
  - Not invented yet
- A biometric photo (facial recognition technology)
- A compulsory registration process: every adult required to turn up, show their papers and be photographed
- The same agency responsible for Medicare will also hold the national population database
- Not required by law to carry it – but in practice you’ll have to
  - No
- Promoted as an all-purpose ‘proof of identity’ card
- Businesses and government agencies can ask to see your card if they want evidence of identity
- Police and other law enforcement agencies to have access to the database (no special protection)