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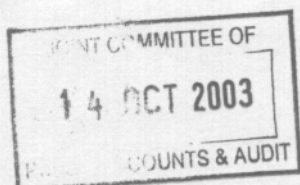
JOINT COMMITTEE OF
1 4 OCT 2003
ACCOUNTS & AUDIT

Submission No. 79

Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

SECRETARY

Bob Charles, MP
Chairman
The Commonwealth Parliament Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Charles,

Request for information on computer related security breaches

I am writing in response to your request dated 16 September 2003 asking for details of any breaches of computer security that have occurred in the Department of Health and Ageing and its associated agencies since July 1998. I have attached the information you requested at Attachment A.

Yours sincerely

Jane Halton
Secretary

14 October 2003

Attachment A

Details of computer related security breaches for Department of Health and Ageing and its portfolio agencies

Department of Health and Ageing

Lost or stolen software/hardware

	1998-99	**1999-00**	**2000-01**	**2001-02**	**2002-03**
Lost/stolen	15 laptops; 4 PCs; 1 printer	8 laptops	2 laptops; 2 Palm Pilots; 1 Casio electronic organiser; 1 CD-Rom, 1 Hard Drive	1 Palm Pilot; 5 laptops	10 laptops
Recovered/ replaced	1 laptop recovered	0 recovered	0 recovered	0 recovered/ 6 replaced	0 recovered/ 11 replaced

* Note: Since July 2000 IT equipment has been acquired through IBM GSA on a 3-year lease. Depending on the circumstance replacement of lost or stolen equipment is covered by insurance.

Investigation activity conducted

All instances of computers stolen during the 2001-02 and 2002-03 financial years were reported to the police in the relevant State or Territory. The two instances of lost computers were not reported to the police. No subsequent police investigation or legal action has ensued.

No departmental disciplinary action or other action has been taken in regards to lost/stolen computing equipment.

Unauthorised access to Computer Systems

No unauthorised access to Departmental computer systems was identified during the period July 1998 - 2003

Other significant events involving information technology security

Date	Incident	Impact
March 02	Dr Wooldridge accessing Health network	Dr Wooldridge retained access to Departmental Information Technology (IT) resources beyond the cessation of his ministerial responsibilities. This incident did not result in a breach of sensitive information.
20 August 03	SOBIG.F virus	Increased email traffic slowing email response time.

Investigation activity conducted

Due to successful containment activity, viruses have not caused major outages on the Health network.   Following the SOBIG.F virus infection we have undertaken a procedural review with IBMGSA and introduced additional preventive action.

The Department's Audit & Fraud Control Branch investigated the incident involving access to Departmental IT Systems by Dr Wooldridge and the report entitled *Investigation into Access to Departmental Resources by Dr Michael Wooldridge* was presented to the Deputy President of the Senate 28 June 2002.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Lost/stolen software/hardware

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Lost/stolen	0	0	14 PCs; 1 laptop	0	3 laptops; 1 projector
Recovered/ replaced			0 recovered		0 recovered

Investigation activity conducted

All incidents listed above were reported to police, however, none of the above equipment has been recovered.

Unauthorised access to computer systems

No unauthorised access to computer systems has been identified during the period July 1998 - 2003

Other significant events involving information technology security

Date	Incident	Impact
4 January 2000	Computer virus - e-mail borne Love Letter variant.	Virus contained within 15 minutes of outbreak. E-mail and Internet access unavailable for 7 hour due to system patching and cleaning. Network remained available for other uses.
9 May 2001	Computer virus - e-mail borne Homepage worm	Virus contained within 4 minutes of outbreak. E-mail and Internet access unavailable for 6 hours due to system patching and cleaning. Network remained available for other uses.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand

Lost/stolen software/hardware

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Lost/stolen	0	0	1 laptop	0	0

Investigation activity conducted

This incident was reported to the Police, however, the laptop was not recovered

Unauthorised access to computer systems

No unauthorised access to Departmental computer systems was identified during the period July 1998 - 2003

Other significant events involving information technology security:

Date	Incident	Impact
5 May 2000	Computer virus - Love Bug.	3 hours of staff productivity loss and 24 hours to fully recover all data.
June 2001	Computer virus - Code Red worm	1 week of intermittent Web server failures until an appropriate fix was released resulting in lack of published web services.

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

Lost/stolen software/hardware

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Lost/stolen	0	0	1 printer	0	0

Investigation activity conducted

This incident was not reported to the Police and the printer was not recovered.

Unauthorised access to computer systems

Date	Incident	Impact
19 July 2001	Compromise of FTP server arl.gov.au by Warez community	FTP root was compromised which contained no files of significance. FTP service closed down

Other significant events involving information technology security

No other significant events have been recorded.

Private Health Insurance Ombudsman

Lost/stolen software/hardware

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Lost/stolen	0	0	0	0	0

Unauthorised access to computer systems

No unauthorised access to Departmental computer systems was identified during the period July 1998 – 2003.

Other significant events involving information technology security

No significant events have been recorded.

Accreditation Australia

Lost/stolen software/hardware

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Lost/stolen	0	1 laptop	5 laptops	1 laptop	1 laptop

Investigation activity conducted

There were 5 confirmed instances of stolen laptops being reported to Police, however none of the laptops has been recovered.

Unauthorised access to computer systems

No unauthorised access to Departmental computer systems was identified during the period July 1998 - 2003

Other significant events involving information technology security

No significant events have been recorded.

Private Health Insurance Administration Council

Lost/stolen software/hardware

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Lost/Stolen	0	1 laptop	1 laptop	0	0

Investigation activity conducted

All incidents were reported to Police, however, no laptops have been recovered.

Unauthorised access to computer systems

No unauthorised access to Departmental computer systems was identified during the period July 1998 - 2003

Other significant events involving information technology security

No significant events have been recorded.

CRS Australia

Lost/stolen software/hardware

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
(a) Lost/stolen	2 laptops	6 laptops; 4 PCs; 3 printers; 1 DECMUX; 1 modem	4 PCs; 1 laptop; 1 scanner; 1 UPS	2 laptops; 2 PCs; 3 printers	3 laptops; 4 PCs; 1 printer; 1 projector

Investigation activity conducted

All incidents were reported to Police, however, none of the equipment listed above has been recovered. No subsequent police investigation or legal action has ensued.

Unauthorised access to computer systems

No unauthorised access to Departmental computer systems was identified during the period July 1998 - 2003. There have been recorded instances of user account breaches where passwords have been compromised.

Other significant events involving information technology security

Various viruses have been detected on the network, though none has caused any outages.

Professional Services Review

Lost/stolen software/hardware

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Lost/stolen	0	0	0	1 laptop 1 PC	0

Investigation activity conducted

This incident was reported to Police. The laptop was recovered, however, the PC was not recovered.

Unauthorised access to computer systems

No unauthorised access to Departmental computer systems was identified during the period July 1998 - 2003

Other significant events involving information technology security

No significant events have been recorded.

Health Insurance Commission

Lost/stolen software/hardware

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Lost/stolen	1 CD Burner; 2 PCs; 1 printer	3 laptops	2 laptops; 1 PC

* Note: Information relating to incidents prior to 2000 has been archived. Information will be forwarded as supplementary advice when it is available.

Investigation activity conducted

All incidents have been reported to the police with subsequent investigations, however, none of the equipment has been recovered and no offenders have been apprehended.

Unauthorised access to computer systems

No unauthorised access to Departmental computer systems was identified during the period July 1998 - 2003

Other significant events involving information technology security

No significant events have been recorded.