

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2006

Question: F42

Outcome 4, Output 4.1.1

Topic: Australian Government Smartcard Framework – Consultation

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Senator Lundy asked:

Why isn't the government making a greater effort to actively consult with organisations representing either citizens or consumer interests and/or civil human rights interests in relation to this type of technology as part of your consultation for the overall framework document?

Answer:

The Australian Government Smartcard Framework was developed in an open and transparent manner. On 19 October 2005, a media release was issued by the former Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Eric Abetz, announcing the Government's intention to develop the framework. On 19 December 2005, the framework was released for public comment and the accompanying media release encouraged interested parties to provide comments and feedback. 25 comments were received on the framework, with 15 of those comments being from non-government agencies. Two of the government agencies that did respond are primarily focussed on privacy issues.

The framework has a prominent place on the Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO) website and is regularly mentioned during public presentations given by the Special Minister of State, the Hon Gary Nairn MP, or members of AGIMO.