

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Budget Estimates 2007-08 - May 2007

Question: HS68

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Department of Human Services – Access Card: Privacy Impact Assessment process

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR STOTT DESPOJA asked on 24/05/2007:

1. Will the Department release the deleted excerpts of the KPMG Report and its Privacy Impact Assessment process? If not, given part of the tendering process is now complete, will the sections of the KPMG report that relate to the completed tender process now be made available?
2. Where is the Fels Privacy Impact Assessment Report? When is it due? What will it cover? Will it be made publicly available?
3. Are there any more Privacy Impact Assessments planned?

Answer:

(1) The KPMG report *Health and Social Services Smart Card Initiative Business Case Volume 1: Public Extract* (KPMG Business Case) dated February 2006 was released on 6 June 2006. The initial *Health and Social Services Privacy Impact Assessment* (initial PIA) completed in February 2006 produced by Clayton Utz Pty Ltd in consultation with Nigel Waters of Privacy Pacific Consulting has not been publicly released. Further release of these reports was a matter for consideration by the former Minister for Human Services.

Following the Government's announcement that the access card initiative has been abolished, the material that the Department could now provide in response to this question would need to be reviewed.

While the extent of the material that would be able to be released is not known at this time, it is clear that some of the material under consideration will remain Cabinet-in-Confidence. Additionally, some of the material may remain commercially sensitive given the potential to send price signals to the market about continuing information technology reforms and other reform strategies to address fraud and improve efficiencies in service delivery which may form part of the Government's reform agenda. Some of the material may also provide information about fraud and compliance management within the Human Services agencies that would not be appropriate to release. The extent of the material that can be released would not be known until a thorough review is conducted.

The review of the two reports requested would require a significant diversion of subject matter experts within the Department to review approximately 400 pages of documentation.

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- (2) The Privacy Impact Assessment drafted by the former Consumer and Privacy Taskforce chaired by Professor Allan Fels, AO was not completed prior to the access card initiative being abolished.
- (3) No, given the access card initiative has been abolished.