

**From:** Name Withheld

**Sent:** Sunday, 18 February 2007 12:35 PM

**To:** FPA, Committee (SEN)

**Subject:** ACCESS CARD BILL

**ATTENTION:** Alistair Sands

I note from the "Australian" newspaper that I can make a submission to your committee before the 28 February 2007. My age is 73 and I am an Australian Citizen who was born in London. I have always been dedicated to lifelong learning and adapting to change. I have studied the Bill and submit the following:

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, we should be using all current technology available to modernise, to streamline, and to protect our Government infrastructure. It is important not to be fearful of these changes.

#### IDENTIFICATION

This is the most important part of any document. The main objective should be to attempt to reduce identity fraud, which has now become so prevalent. Photographs are unreliable for many reasons such as changes to hair styles/colour/loss/shaven head/ ageing/sickness/accidents. I believe that iris recognition, or fingerprinting would be the most sensible solution. I know that fingerprinting will be considered by some people in the community as concerning criminals, but the use of either form of recognition together with a photograph for daily use, would overcome fraud from lost, stolen, duplicated, or counterfeit cards.

Everyone wishing to obtain benefits should provide photographs for daily use. There can be no exceptions; otherwise, our billion-dollar investment will be wasted. Anyone who is too sick to attend could be photographed officially in situ. No other persons should be excluded on grounds of physical, religious, or any other excuse.

#### HEALTH

One of the Bill's stated aims is "to streamline Australia's delivery of health and social service benefits"

A Health Access Card should contain mandatory information to assist health professionals in case of emergency. Important things like blood group; dangerous allergies like penicillin, or surgical implants. Many people no longer have the luxury of consulting a regular General Practitioner, but must attend Health Clinics where they see different doctors who do not have background knowledge of their medical history.

#### UPDATES

Unless there are regular compulsory updates after 2010 the system will still be open to fraud due to changed personal circumstances which are too numerous to list here.

#### CARRYING/PRODUCING THE CARD

Anyone requiring benefits would have to produce the card or in cases of accident or emergency, could provide it within 24 hours of the service. Excuses for not carrying the card it should be unacceptable.