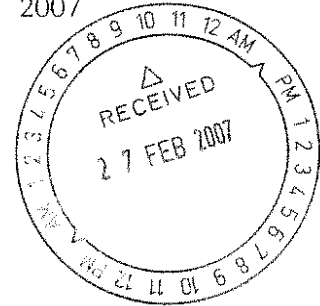


22nd Feb. 2007

The Secretary
The Senate Finance & Public Administration
Standing Committee,
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA.
ACT 2600



re Access Card Bill.

I make this submission in response to an advertisement in a daily newspaper. I am a member of the public and cannot present this more professionally nor do I have access to the Internet and was advised over the phone of the above address.

As time is of the essence and I had already put in a submission re the exposure draft via Human Services (also with very short notice) I enclose copy of that submission and request that this be accepted as my submission, along with this letter, to your Standing Committee.

I am afraid of this intrusion into our privacy and to what use it can be put in the distant future - the number of people able to access the information.

I note that current Privacy Regulations do not seem to work effectively due in the most cases to poorly trained staff.

I again emphasise that the enclosed submission is my submission to this Standing Committee.

I'm only a small part of this community and treasure the freedom to have a say on this matter.

I also write in the hope that someone will read it and understand the preciousness of our freedom.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret McKay".

Margaret McKay

FROM - MARGARET MCKAY,

I am not a professional person and due to the fact that I only received the documentation on Wednesday 10th Jan 07 in the evening I have not had time to digest it properly - so I will make some points that I have noticed and hope this is acceptable.

1. I read 3 newspapers a day but did not see the original notice re this submission until I noticed the reminder in the Herald Sun on 5.1.07 too late to contact anyone, I am not connected to the internet (due to financial reasons and there are a large number of us) Finding someone to forward me the relevent documentation was difficult and ultimately in the hands of Australia Post.
2. If and when the card becomes law and there are changes to be made to the legislation will the current cardholders be given the opportunity to comment? Will they be given a choice if additional information is to be added?
3. When this Access Card was first announced we were told there would be a choice but if indeed you need to 'live and eat' and a re on a Centrelink pension there is no choice.
4. Will the persons with access to the card be permanent employees suitably 'vetted' - police checks etc - Will written consent of the owner of the card be required perhaps with 2 witnesses - can a carer relative or friend perhaps coerce an owner of the card to access to the information? Will 'temporazry people be employed to set this up?
5. With the proof of identity - such as Birth Certificate be required and/or passport - who is going to pay for this documenta*ion - it is quite expensive.
6. It is noted that date of birth to be optional -I can't imagine that this is correct - probably a matter of no choice.
7. There is no mention of Taxation Department having access. As far as I know they have access to Centrelink information and Centrelink has access to Bank etc records - so will the Card have a ripple effect and therefore other agencies will have access I REGARD THIS RIPPLE EFFECT AS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND IT NEEDS TO BE CAREFULLY LOOKED AT - I AM AFRAID THAT LEGISLATION WILL BE PASSED 'FULL OF HOLES',
8. Will fines for abuse of the information on the card and privacy matters have fines large enough to prove a deterrent?
9. PIN number - most of us are no_torious for forgetting this - who will be in charge of this very important aspect of the card information - How will we retrieve the number or get a new one - with some pensioners this could be on a weekly basis!!!!
10. What happens if wrong data gets entered on the card - by mistake or intentionally - and the matter of Allergies for some other wrong data affects the person or their quality of life - is there provision for appeal, and/or compensation?

Submission from Margaret McKay -

Access Card Bill continued

11 Is there a panel to be appointed to look at the ongoing 'teething' problems - if so, who is on the panel - there needs to be older retired people, and people representing all categories affected by the card. With due respect to the younger people involved in this matter, it sometimes take the wisdom of older people to see some of the pitfalls and the potential for the 'ripple effect'.

12. I make the following suggestion - aimed at those clever young people - that you 'mock up' some cards and give them to a variety of computer literate people - outside you system and ask them to endeavour to 'hack' into the cards - and there are some brilliant people out there young as well as old - this would allay some of the fears of privacy etc.

13. Will it become part of the "Points System" for opening bank accounts and applying for a Passport?

I am so sorry I did not have the time to examine this proposed legislation properly and it is my hope that great care is taken of this legislation and that Professor Fels is listened to - he appears to be a very wise man.

I do not write this with any political affiliation - my local member is ALP but I myself am a 'swinging' voter - studying the policies each time I think and hope keeps us all honest.

One last point - the photo - what happens if I lose weight - allow my hair at last to go 'white' - get new teeth - and if silly enough have cosmetic surgery -leaves the matter of fraud of card and identity somewhat confused!!!!

I implore you to tread carefully and watch for those 'ripples'.

I have been so pleased to be the opportunity of making these comments because believe me it makes me, and I am sure others, somewhat afraid.

Margaret McKay
Margaret McKay.

Sgt. Margaret McKay