



Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
Government of Western Australia

**URGENT**

Office of E-Government

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TO: Committee Secretary  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600 FAX No: 02 6277 5809

FROM: Office of e-Government  
on behalf of the Premier of WA TEL No: 08 9213 7112

DATE: 28 February 2007 PAGES:(Including this) 3

**SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ACCESS CARD**

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**MESSAGE:**

Dear Committee Secretary

Please find attached document as per above from the Premier of WA

Regards

PLEASE COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS - ORIGINAL WILL NOT FOLLOW



Premier of Western Australia



Senator The Hon Ian Campbell  
Minister for Human Services  
Level 38, Exchange Plaza  
2 The Esplanade  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Senator Campbell

### HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ACCESS CARD

On 2 May 2006 the former Minister for Human Services, the Hon Joe Hockey MP wrote to me offering a briefing on the proposed Health and Social Services Access Card. However this did not eventuate. Notwithstanding, officers from Western Australian (WA) Government and the Office of Access Card have met on one occasion where discussion focussed on technical issues rather than strategic concerns and cost implications for the WA Government.

I understand that the Commonwealth Government intends to start registering individuals for the Access Card from 2008. If this is the case, I am concerned about the limited information that has been made available to the State about the proposal.

There are cost and organisational issues, particularly in the health, transport and concessions environments that need to be resolved. Furthermore, there is likely to be a significant impact on state registration agencies as the public seeks to obtain proof of identity documents in order to register for the Card.

It should also be noted that the assistance of the Western Australian Government will be predicated on the Commonwealth Government indemnifying the State for any additional costs accruing from the implementation of the Access Card.

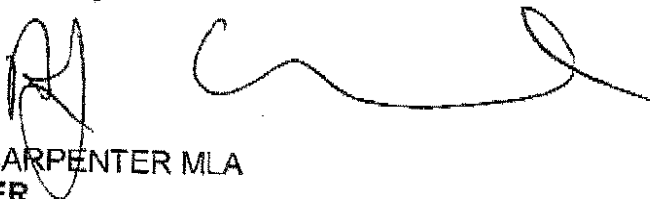
It would be appreciated if you can respond to the following matters that need to be resolved:

- Provision of the Commonwealth Government's implementation strategy and timeline for the Access Card;
- Establishment of an agreed process for indemnifying the States for any additional costs accruing from the implementation of the Access Card, including the installation of appropriate infrastructure;
- How State Governments will access benefit entitlement and concession status information on the card chip for their core business purposes, in light of prohibitions in the draft *Human Services (Enhanced Service Delivery) Bill 2007* ('the Bill');
- How the Bill will fit with privacy provisions in existing and proposed Commonwealth, State and Territory legislation;
- How the impact on State agencies that issue proof of identity credentials to be used in the registration process for the Access Card will be managed.

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Given the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee is currently conducting an Inquiry into the Bill, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of this correspondence to the Committee Secretary.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Carpenter', written over a printed name and title.

ALAN CARPENTER MLA  
PREMIER

c.c. Committee Secretary  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

28 FEB 2007