



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Intelligence & Security

Defence Signals Directorate

**Brief to the Senate Standing Committee on
Finance and Public Administration**

**Access Card - Inquiry into Human Services
(Enhanced Service Delivery) Bill 2007**

March 2007



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Intelligence & Security

Submission
Defence
Signals
Directorate

INTRODUCTION

1. In response to the 2 March 2007 request from the Senate Committee on Finance and Administration, this submission provides information on the security of the Access Card and Defence Signals Directorate (DSD) involvement in its development.

BACKGROUND

2. In its role as the national authority on information security, DSD has been and will continue to provide advice to the Department of Human Services on the development of the smart card system known as the Access Card. The purpose of DSD's advice is to maximise the security of the Access Card system.

DSD INVOLVEMENT

3. DSD's role is anticipated to cover the following aspects:
 - a. technical advice on the current tender evaluations;
 - b. security advice on system design;
 - c. evaluation and accreditation of information communications technology security products used in the development and maintenance of the system; and
 - d. vulnerability assessments both before and after system rollout.
4. It should be noted that DSD's role in development of the system is limited to technical advice. The final decision on all aspects of the system remains with the Department of Human Services.
5. DSD cannot provide detailed information on the security of the system as it is still in the early stages of design.
6. Providing technical advice to the Access Card system remains a high priority for DSD. DSD intends to maintain close engagement with the project.

Clive Lines
Acting Director
Defence Signals Directorate
5 March 2007