

David Travis
REDFERN NSW

Friday 25 February 2005

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal & Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

A SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE PRIVACY ACT 1988

I wish to make a submission to the above Senate Inquiry. I apologise for its brevity as I only learnt of this Inquiry very recently. My submission centres on the increased need for photo identification cards and how a drivers licence have become a de facto photo identification card. My submission does not go to the heart of the Inquiry but concerns an aspect of it.

I am concerned that those, like myself, who have not acquired the skill of driving a vehicle are disadvantaged. We do not have a convenient form of photo identification we are able to carry about for day to day use.

I note that an Australian Passport can be used as form of photo identification. However the New South Wales Police recently advised against carrying a passport around generally due to the danger of theft and the subsequent use of stolen passports in identity fraud and terrorism. I note also that a passport does not contain a holders residential address. I further note that obtaining a passport is expensive and would not be an option for the poor and disadvantaged.

I have been advised by government departments that there are other options for those who do not have a photo identification, namely the 100 point identification scheme. I note that the 100 point scheme can be cumbersome and requires some detailed planning; for instance complying utility bills and bank statements or remembering to carry a passport. A person with a drivers licence is not required to do this. They can carry a single card.

The need for photo identification is growing. In New South Wales K-Mark stores require photo identification to be produced for any credit card purchase over \$50. Not having a drivers licence means that I have a plan ahead and

pack my Australian Passport when I intend to shop at K-Mart, very alert to the fact (and a little alarmed) that I am carrying a valuable identification document that is very attractive to criminals.

I believe that there are a lot of people who would be in my position. In the minority but still out there in the community. I do not support the introduction of an identity card and have not addressed any of the factors arguing that Australia needs one. I wish to submit to the Senate's Inquiry that a drivers licence has become a de facto identity card and that this issue needs to be considered by the Senate Inquiry.

Yours faithfully

David Travis