Access Card (1) *to* **Australian Minister for Human services**
2007.3. Access Card (1)

Submitted 18 February 2007 *to* the Minister for Human Services, Australia; copy to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee, Parliament of Australia.

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On the subject of the **Access Card** we made the following main comments to the Minister for Human Services, with copy to Legal & Constitutional Senate Committee.
• Benefits of modern technologies have to be balanced against the risks they carry for data misuse and violations of rights to privacy.
• Humanists regard a right to privacy as a salient right, a main aspect of human dignity. And they regard a government's respect for personal privacy as a mark of a democratic and civilised society.
• Wide consultation with society should be undertaken before the legislators change its human rights.
• The call for submissions on 22 December 20006 for January 2007 was a most peculiar timing to seek public opinion on this important matter.
• Assessments (KPMG) reports not open to scrutiny cause justified mistrust.
• Well-known breaches of privacy by unauthorised access (police, ATO, etc.) are of concern. The new databases will be available to a wide range of agencies and we expect frequent access, some of which may cause serious problems, such as disclosure of the address of a victim of domestic violence now at a secret location.
• Such large databases will be tempting to hackers. The Pentagon failed to prevent hacking.
• So-called "function creep" cannot be prevented; it has already occurred in the UK. An extension of function into an ID card cannot be averted: the card can be exploited or misused by future governments, as admitted by the Attorney-General.
• Arguments in favour of the card are spurious. It is not like a driver's licence (limited information known to us), not compulsory to have (but essential for services access); it is not anti-terrorist; and it has been shown that it may

protect criminals once they acquire false identity as the 11 September 2001 and Madrid bombers did.

• The dedicated and sophisticated will be able to insert false data or make duplicates.