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FACULTY OF LAW  
Graham Greenleaf  
Professor of Law  
12 June 2006

Professor Allan Fels, AO  
Chair, Consumer and Privacy Taskforce  
Department of Human Services

Dear Professor Fels,

### **Submission #2: Framing the terms of debate**

The federal government has labelled the system your Taskforce is commissioned to investigate as a 'health and social services access card'. When announcing the card proposal the claim was made that Cabinet had rejected proposals for a compulsory national ID Card.

We believe that this is incorrect, and that the Australian public must now undertake a national debate as to whether a national ID card system should be introduced, as this is the inevitable consequence of the government's proposals.

We submit that for your Taskforce to effectively take part in this national debate it is necessary for you to speak plainly and truthfully about the nature of the proposal that is under consideration.

Newspaper reports which may be published as early as today will make reference to our views on this matter, and possibly to an as-yet unpublished paper on the matter that I have written, entitled 'Quacking like a duck: The national ID Card proposal (2006) compared with the Australia Card (1986-87)'.

This paper is only yet in draft form, principally due to the incomplete nature of the information available to the public about the government's proposals (as to which see my previous letter). However, I feel that I should make available to you a copy of the draft so that you are aware of the details of the arguments raised in it. A copy is attached. The draft will be publicly accessible tomorrow on the Centre's website.

Your sincerely,

Graham Greenleaf  
Co-Director  
Cyberspace Law & Policy Centre

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