

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Budget Estimates 2007-08 - May 2007

Question: HS19

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Department of Human Services – Access Card Use for Identity Purposes

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SENATOR NETTLE asked on 24/05/2007:

Senator NETTLE—So if somebody wanted to use the access card for proof of identity at the bank they would have to choose to have their date of birth on the card.

Senator Ellison—The date of birth issue is not something that has been raised with me by the banks, but I will check on that and get back to you...

Senator NETTLE—But if I am right about the fact that the anti-money laundering legislation and the new system requires that—

Senator Ellison—I am not so sure that is right. Let me take that on notice, because we will just be going around in circles otherwise. I will take it on notice.

Answer:

The Government is committed to ensuring the Access Card strengthens the protection for individuals' privacy and prevents the misuse of personal information. The upcoming legislation exposure draft will clearly state that the Access Card is not to be a national identity card and that it can not be demanded as a form of personal identification for purposes other than accessing certain government benefits set out in the legislation.

The Access Card is for the purposes of accessing government health, veterans' and social services benefits.

Legislation will enable card holder choice to use the card for other purposes. Card holders may choose to include their date of birth on the surface of the card.