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Comment

The recent controversy surrounding the proposed introduction of a national identity card has served to highlight the lack of safeguards in relation to the protection of personal privacy. The rights of access to an amendment of personal records in the federal and Victorian Fol legislation, although they serve a very valuable role in enabling individuals to monitor the accuracy of their personal records, do not restrict the use which is made of such records within the public sector nor do they impose any sanctions in respect of their unauthorised use. In view of the increased public awareness about privacy issues which has resulted from the Australia card debate, it would now appear to be an opportune time to consider the introduction of more comprehensive privacy legislation.

Our feature article by Tom Riley, the Executive Director of the International Freedom of Information Institute is based on a paper which he delivered during a recent visit to Melbourne. It is heartening to note that, despite moves to curtail the operation of Fol legislation in Australia and the United States, the position is much rosier in Canada and in New Zealand as outlined in our article on overseas developments.

> **Moira Paterson** Paul Villanti



FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL

The case of Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists Pty Ltd and Commissioner of Taxation has been held over for the next issue due to space constraints.