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# Medicare smart card branded 'ID card by stealth'

The federal Opposition has condemned reports that the Government is considering introducing a Medicare smart card, saying there has been no consultation.

Human Services Minister Joe Hockey is reportedly outlining the proposal to Cabinet this week.

The card would include a photograph and contact details and would enable the holder to receive government benefits.

Labor's Kelvin Thomson says it would be a national identification card by stealth and the proposal should not have gone as far as Cabinet without public discussion.

"This is part of a political pincer movement between Joe Hockey and the Attorney-General Philip Ruddock, which involves the introduction of an ID card by stealth," he said.

"This involves a plan to essentially introduce the ID card without proper public consultation."

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