

Day 3 – Wednesday, 28 November 2007
Parallel Sessions – Session 1B 11.00am-12.30pm

Speaker: John Taylor

Position: Deputy Ombudsman of Victoria

Organisation: Ombudsman Victoria, Australia

Presentation Title: Own Motion Review of the Freedom of Information Act

In June 2006 the Victorian Ombudsman released his report of an own motion investigation into the Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act). This paper looks at the background to the review, including the basis for it; the development of a discussion paper; and agency responses. It is also a behind-the-scenes commentary on conducting a wide ranging systemic review and how to best achieve outcomes.

The Ombudsman made recommendations that included legislative change; that the Department of Justice take a stronger leadership role in providing guidance to FOI agencies; and that practice notes and guidelines be issued.

Since finalising the review the Victorian Government has committed to amending the FOI Act in line with the Ombudsman's recommendations.