

Information Commissioner Update

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Information Commissioner



information and
privacy commission
new south wales

Right to Know Week NSW 2025

29 September – 5 October 2025

*Ensuring access to environmental
information in the digital age*



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www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/RTK2025



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Overview

- **Theme:** Ensuring access to environmental information in the digital age
- The Information Commissioner held a live panel event at NSW Parliament Theatrette to discuss the broader theme
- Media Releases
- NSW & Joint Community Attitudes Survey
- IAIC Joint Statement

IPC panel event – 30 September





NSW Community Attitudes Survey

Results published during RTK. Key findings:

- **96%** of respondents felt that their right to access government information was important, a rise from 91% in 2024
- Only **41%** of respondents had heard of the GIPA Act, and half were unaware of their rights to access government information
- While **56%** of respondents know they can access information from NSW government agencies (including public hospitals), only **20%** are aware that they have the same right with ministers

The full results are available via the IPC website.

Report on the Operation of the GIPA Act

2023–24

- The 2023–24 Report was tabled in Parliament on 20 May 2025
- The number of valid applications received by agencies continues to increase, with applications increasing a further **12%** to a new record of **27,485** in 2023–24.
- The Government sector continued to account for the majority of applications (**84%** or **23,091**)
- Information release outcomes for applications that sought *partly personal and partly other information* continues to increase significantly to **6,897** compared with **5,255** in 2022–23, a **277%** increase between 2019–24.

2024–25

- Agency GIPA data is now due for 2024–25, with the deadline of **28 November** via the IPC GIPA Tool.
- Contact ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au should you require any assistance.

AIAC Meeting

- The Association of Information Access Commissioners (AIAC), comprising Information Commissioners and Ombudsmen from Australia and New Zealand, held their bi-annual meeting in Sydney from 2 to 3 October 2025.
- Information Commissioners and Ombudsmen explored how information access, particularly access to environmental information, can act as a catalyst for environmental sustainability, innovation, and public participation.
- The Information Commissioner participated in an the AIAC's online panel discussion on 2 October as part of Right to Know Week.



Community of Practice for Ethical Behaviour event

- On 29 September, the IPC and the PSC held an online event for the Community of Practice for Ethical Behaviour on '**Transparency and accountability: Traversing the ethical hurdles**'.
- The event explored the ethical considerations for public officials in meeting transparency and accountability obligations and provided practical insights into safeguarding information access rights and best practices for managing record-keeping in the face of modern challenges.
- During the event, the Information Commissioner addressed the Community of Practice and participated in a panel alongside:
 - Privacy Commissioner, Sonia Minutillo
 - Associate Professor Janina Boughey, UNSW Faculty of Law
 - Martyn Killion, Executive Director, NSW State Records.

Desktop Review of AI & ADM use in AIGs and PMPs

Information access findings:

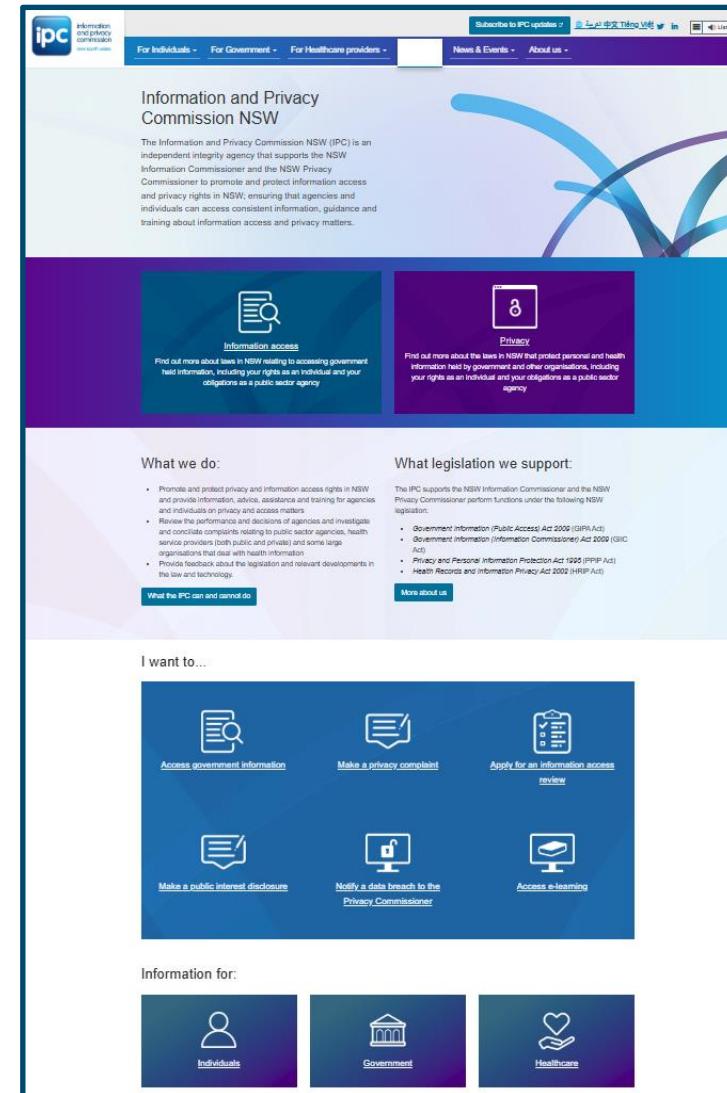
- 83% of agencies **did not** document any reference to the use of AI or ADM within their AIGs.
- 93% of agencies **do not** describe how AI or ADM affects members of the public in either their AIG or PMP
- This lack of transparency represents a potential compliance risk because the GIPA Act **requires** agencies to proactively publish information about the way their functions are carried out.
- Agencies should review and update their AIGs to ensure that any current uses of AI or ADM are clearly documented.
- Also consider including basic information about AI or ADM in their AIGs regardless of whether their use of AI or ADM is limited or emerging.

IPC Corporate Strategies

- Earlier this year, the IPC published new and refreshed corporate strategic documents, including the:
 - IPC Regulatory Priorities 2025–28
 - IPC Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2025–28
 - IPC Strategic Plan Key Performance Indicators.
- They outline the IPC's strategic, regulatory and engagement focus areas, aiming to enhance transparency, accountability, and public trust in government information access and privacy practices.
- These documents are part of the IPC's commitment to fostering a culture of openness and accountability within NSW.
- By clearly communicating its priorities and plans, the IPC delivers on its aim to support agencies in meeting their obligations and to empower citizens with the knowledge and tools to protect their rights.

IPC website update

- The website features:
 - new landing pages
 - improved navigation
 - helps users locate information faster
 - more user-friendly layout
 - new resource hub.
- The key change was a focus on individuals, government and healthcare providers as key audiences. New landing pages highlight relevant functions and include quick links.
- A new resources hub is now accessible from the top menu.
- The hub brings all information access and privacy resources together in one place and lets users search and filter by audience, topic or resource type.



Questions on the Information Commissioner's Update

- Please add any questions on the Information Commissioner's Update using the Q&A function in teams.