

Suggested news copy for agencies

Heading

How healthy is our privacy?

Introduction

Privacy Awareness Month, May 2017, is a time to reflect on our privacy obligations, while shining a light on privacy issues facing the NSW community today.

Body Copy

Privacy Awareness is an annual event which is an initiative of the Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities (APPA). APPA is the principal forum for privacy authorities in the Asia Pacific Region to form partnerships and exchange ideas about privacy regulation, new technologies and the management of privacy enquiries and complaints.

As with last year, Privacy Awareness celebrations in NSW will be held throughout the month of May (Privacy Awareness Month or PAM). As a part of PAM the Office of the NSW Privacy Commissioner hosts and takes part in, a variety of events and activities for individuals, businesses and public sector organisations.

This year's PAM theme for NSW, How healthy is your privacy?, highlights the importance for organisations and individuals to maintain a good understanding of their responsibilities for the handling of personal and health information and their rights under NSW legislation. As technology and legislation evolve, it is vital that organisations and individuals in the community also take responsibility and step up to the challenge of taking control of privacy management.

For members of the public the focus is on how people can protect their privacy. For organisations, the emphasis is on the benefits of investing in good privacy governance. The 'Privacy Governance Framework' is a useful tool for understanding privacy governance.

The theme, 'How healthy is your privacy?', encourages us to ask - what are my responsibilities when it comes to protecting my own personal and health information and what are my rights under current legislation.

"My office has developed a range of free downloadable resources on protecting your privacy and understanding your privacy rights in NSW. I also encourage people to make contact with my office if they are interested in finding out more about privacy in NSW." Dr Elizabeth Coombs, A/NSW Privacy Commissioner.

All privacy resources can be accessed on the IPC's PAM 2017 web page (www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/pam-2017).

If you have a specific enquiry or need assistance with a privacy issue, please call the Office of the NSW Privacy Commissioner on (02) 9258 0066 or email privacy@ipc.nsw.gov.au