

May 2016

# PRIVACY AWARENESS MONTH



## PRIVACY FOR THE FUTURE

THE EVER CHANGING FACE OF PRIVACY

NSW was the second government in the world to introduce privacy legislation in 1975. While current NSW legislation has stood the test of time well, advances in technology have meant that an individual's privacy can be breached in ways inconceivable in years gone by.

The Standing Committee on Law and Justice Inquiry into Serious Invasions of Privacy in NSW, chaired by The Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, recently recommended that NSW introduce a statutory cause of action for serious invasions of privacy and greater powers for the NSW Privacy Commissioner to address claims of serious invasions of privacy.

NSW Privacy Commissioner, Dr Elizabeth Coombs, has been a staunch supporter of the need to implement a statutory cause of action to address serious invasions of privacy. Dr Coombs' submission, available on the Parliament of NSW website, supported the recommendations for the development of a statutory cause of action.

Dr Coombs said "...NSW was the second jurisdiction in the world to introduce law protecting privacy, so it is appropriate that today NSW again takes a leadership role and hopefully act as the catalyst for other Australian jurisdictions to take similar action. "

The development of a statutory cause of action, as opposed to reliance on common law remedies, is also supported by leading civil rights, privacy, legal and academic bodies across NSW and Australia.

"These recommendations are a win for those people who have had their privacy breached in unimaginable ways and then suffered further indignity in discovering that they had no right to recourse..." - Dr Elizabeth Coombs, NSW Privacy Commissioner



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