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# **How to use this document**

This document is intended to provide guidance to news publishers on the key principles and concepts of Privacy for their news service users.  
  
This document can be used as a template for adaptation and then adoption. You will need to consider your publication’s particular circumstances, such as ensuring it properly conveys your particular publication’s use of private data, as well as calibrating this document to the size, nature, style and character of your business and audience.

For example, consider whether details such as the private information you collect from users of your news service, as outlined here, is relevant and covers the scope of information you are collecting. You may also like to consider implementing [cybersecurity](https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/tools-and-resources/cyber-security) measures and including details in your privacy policy.

**Online Privacy Statement Template:**

[Name of Publication] respects your right to privacy and is committed to protecting your privacy when you interact with us, our content, products or services.

**[Name of Publication]**

References to “we”, “us”, “our” in this Privacy Policy are references to [Name of Publication] and our associated staff, subcontractors, volunteers or third-party service providers that we engage from time to time in the provision of our services.

**Privacy Policy**

This Privacy Policy discloses our privacy practices and it applies to personal information collected and held by [Name of Publication].

In our collection, storage, use and dissemination of personal information, we are bound by the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) (the Privacy Act), including the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and any relevant APP codes registered under the Privacy Act.

This policy does not address issues related to personal information and its use in the course of media reporting.

### Media Exemption

[Name of Publication] makes use of media exemption under the Privacy Act, in relation to personal information used in the course of media reporting. For further details regarding this, please refer to [www.presscouncil.org.au/privacy-principles](http://www.presscouncil.org.au/privacy-principles).

### Consent

By using this news service, or any other [Name of Publication] product, application and/or site that references this Privacy Policy, or by otherwise providing to us directly, or through others, your personal information, you agree with the terms of this Privacy Policy and consent to the collection, use, and disclosure of that information in accordance with this Privacy Policy, the Privacy Act and other applicable privacy laws.

We may modify this Privacy Policy at any time at our discretion. You can always locate the current version via our website or by contacting us.

### Personal Information

“Personal information” generally includes information or an opinion relating to an identified, or reasonably identifiable, individual.

We will not ask for personal information revealing your racial or ethnic origin, political opinions or membership of a political association, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, sexual orientation or practices, health information, or disability, unless the information is relevant to journalistic content and covered under Media Exemption law.

Note: We may collect and share data ethically collected in surveys and polls as aggregated information. We never share identifiable responses from individuals in these processes with other organisations or individuals outside our staff team.

### Information we collect

The information we may collect about you is designed to better understand your preferences and help us provide news services that meet your needs. It may include:

* your name;
* login details;
* contact details;
* demographic information;
* preferences and interests;
* user generated content;
* research or survey responses; and/or
* payment details.

### Reasons we may need to collect personal information

These may include, but are not limited to:

* Subscription / donation / membership services
* Letters to the Editor
* Ordering copies of media (photos, audio, ect.)
* Entering competitions
* Participation in our events and community activities

### How we use your information

* To enhance our online services to our readers.
* To provide personalised content where possible and relevant.
* To process once-off or agreed ongoing transactions
* To encourage participation in our events and activities
* To inform the continuous improvement of our news services to meet community expectations

### We may disclose your personal information

* To the Police or emergency services in order to prevent or lessen the threat to health of an individual concerned or another person.
* Where required or authorised under law.

### Data Security

All reasonable steps will be taken to protect personal information against misuse, loss, unauthorised access, alteration, destruction and disclosure. All attempts will be made to destroy or de-identify personal information if it is no longer needed.

### Cookies *(note: not applicable to all newsrooms)*

A ‘cookie’ is a small file downloaded onto your computer, when you access a website.

Cookies allow sites to recognise you when you visit them again. We may use cookies to track the way you use our site, and which products and services you view, in order to improve our services to you. We may also log your IP address to analyse trends, traffic and gather demographic information.

We may also collect information which is not considered personal information relating to your activity on our websites or we may collect anonymous information from you in response to surveys. This information assists us to report statistics, administer our services, diagnose concerns and problems and improve our service to you. This information will not identify you or anyone else in any way.

### Make a Complaint

We welcome feedback about all privacy issues.

Please contact us for any privacy queries. If we take more than 30 days to respond to your privacy complaint, or you are not satisfied with the outcome, you can make a complaint to the Privacy Commissioner at the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner. The OAIC can be contacted on 1300 363 992 or at [www.oaic.gov.au.](http://www.oaic.gov.au/)