



Civil Liberties Australia calls for world’s best privacy guidelines and protections

CLA plans to fight for the introduction of world’s best guidelines and data privacy protocols to apply to both the government and private sector in Australia under the just-announced review of privacy legislation.

“More robust rules around data holdings are needed whether or not a national ID card is introduced,” CLA secretary Bill Rowlings said today.

“People should own their individual data – people’s personal details should not be owned by government departments, or by private companies.

“Every one of us should have the right to look at any data anyone holds on us, and to correct the information if it is wrong.

“There should also be rules about where and for how long the data is held,” he said.

CLA will be also campaigning for a role for civil liberties and human rights groups in stringently monitoring data privacy rules and operations.

There is currently no practical personal protection of people’s data held by either government or private companies in Australia, apart from the somewhat irrelevant and 15 years old provisions of the Privacy Act.

What is urgently needed are strict rules on data matching by government and by the private sector, and protocols on where and how data is held and safeguarded.

For example, the credit data of Australians can be held in overseas databases/

“Technology is changing so rapidly that a full review of the regulations is needed every five years, and a public interest monitoring group is needed between those reviews,” Mr Rowlings said.

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Further information

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