Office of the Information Commissioner

September 2025 - No. 2

Having trouble viewing this email? View online

International Access to Information Day



International Access to Information Day (IAID) is 28 September 2025. The United Nations declared this international day in support of the right to seek and receive information encapsulated by Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

IAID is an opportunity to share the importance of access to information and highlight the important role that government agencies play in managing information for public purposes.

The WA Information Commissioner has written to agency heads through the Public Sector Commission CEO Gateway about the impact of proactively sharing information on reducing FOI requests, increasing trust and informing the community.

Explore the range of events happening around Australia celebrating IAID:

- **Monday 29 September 9am: The International Day for Universal Access to Information 2025 Conference**
- **Tuesday 30 September 10am AEST: Guaranteeing the right to access to information in a turbulent world (IAID 2025)**

National metrics for information access



Australia's national FOI metrics are now available online. This data provides a snapshot of how Australians are accessing information. The WA data from the 2023/24 report shows we received the second highest number of access applications per capita, after Victoria. We also had the third highest percentage of access provided in full or in part (93%); dealt with 90% of access applications within the statutory timeframe provided by the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (WA); and our office had the lowest percentage of external reviews received.

Agencies can play a vital role in reducing the need for access applications by proactively sharing information and promoting the Open by Design Principles. This can reduce FOI requests whilst fostering an informed community.

Read more about WA statistics on our website or visit the national dashboard for more information.



Help shape the future of the OIC

The WA Office of the Information Commissioner is expanding – we are the independent privacy regulator for regulated entities in WA adding to our existing FOI responsibilities. We are recruiting for an Information Access Deputy Commissioner and a Privacy Deputy Commissioner and will soon be recruiting for other roles across our office. You'll have the opportunity to guide privacy best practice and to encourage and enable effective information access in WA.

For more information and to apply, visit Jobs WA



Remembering Bronwyn Keighley-Gerardy

We acknowledge with sadness, the passing of inaugural Information Commissioner Ms Bronwyn Keighley-Gerardy on 24 June 2025. Bronwyn established the Office of the Information Commissioner in 1993 after the passage of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (WA). She lived the values of openness, accountability and responsibility, leading the Office for just over 10 years.

Recent events



Photo supplied by Minter Ellison from the 2025 Women in Government Lunch.

Global Privacy Assembly 2025

The Information Commissioner attended the 47th Global Privacy Assembly (GPA) in Seoul, South Korea, 15 to 19 September. With a key focus of this year's Assembly being AI it served as a forum for regulators and delegates to share knowledge and discuss global developments in technology and privacy. Resolutions passed will be available soon.

Women in Government Lunch

The Information Commissioner provided opening remarks on the new WA privacy and responsible information sharing legislation to the Minter Ellison annual Women in Government lunch, followed by a panel on the intersection between AI and public policy on 9 September.

Guest Lecture: Foundations of Public Law

The Acting Information Access Deputy Commissioner gave a lecture to first year law students on contributing to transparency and accountability of Government in Western Australia on 24 September. This included discussion of public access to government held information and privacy regulation.

FOI and privacy tip of the month

Are you using BCC and CC features effectively?

The use of cc in emails is an important feature to ensure relevant individuals are informed about the conversation. However, all cc'd recipients can view the email addresses of others in this field. This could lead to unintended sharing of contact information.



Make sure to only add people to the cc field who need to be actively visible in the email thread. Use bcc to maintain privacy and protect recipients in email communications, particularly for sensitive mailing lists.

Transfer FOI requests early

If you're intending to transfer an FOI application, it's important to action this as soon as possible. The processing time for the request doesn't stop, and it's important requests are dealt with promptly. This helps achieve the best outcome for everyone involved.



an power

The International Association of Privacy Professionals is hosting a KnowledgeNet in Perth. After a welcome address from the Information Commissioner, stay for a panel discussion on privacy and marketing. We're excited to be a part of this event and can't wait to see you there.

Thursday 16 October, 5pm.

FOI Decision Writing Workshop

This workshop is designed to enhance your skills and confidence in writing notice of decisions that comply with the *Freedom of Information Act 1992.*

Wednesday 29 October, 9am to 12:30pm.

My subscriptions

To subscribe to other OIC publications, unsubscribe, update your subscription preferences, or provide feedback to us, please select one of the following:

Unsubscribe Subscribe Update

Office of the Information Commissioner

Phone: (08) 6551 7888
Free-call (WA country land-line callers only): 1800 621 244
Email: info@oic.wa.gov.au
Web: www.oic.wa.gov.au

Address: Albert Facey House, 469 Wellington Street, Perth WA 6000

Acknowledgement of Country

The Office of the Information Commissioner acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present.