Office of the Information Commissioner

October 2025 - No. 3

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Survey results on community attitudes on access to government information

WA's Information Commissioner along with Commissioners from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Federal, and the ACT Ombudsman sponsored their fourth cross-jurisdictional study of community attitudes on access to government information.

The 2025 cross-jurisdictional Information Access Study measures the public's awareness of the right to access government information, and their experiences and outcomes in exercising that right.

In 2024-25 key findings in Western Australia included:

- 96% of respondents noted the right to access to government-held information was either very important or quite important
- Whilst respondents noted it's important to have the right to access this information, only 70% of respondents had heard about the Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)
- Accountability, transparency and access to personal information were key areas of interest for respondents
- There was an increased number of respondents that requested consultation input and submission documents, in comparison to the 2022-23 study

The research provides broad insight into the public's views and experiences of the right to access government-held information and compares responses across jurisdictions.

Read the cross-jurisdictional report, the WA specific report, and the joint media statement on our website.

- **Cross-jurisdictional report**
- **WA specific report**
- **Joint media statement**

Resolutions from the Global Privacy Assembly

Resolutions from the 47th Global Privacy Assembly have been published. Adopted resolutions cover the collection, use and disclosure of personal data to pre-train, train and fine-tune AI models, meaningful human oversight of decisions involving AI systems, and digital education, privacy and personal data protection for responsible inclusive digital citizenship.

Read the adopted resolutions in full on the Global Privacy Assembly website.

Western Australians have the first AI law in Australia. This is outlined in Information Privacy Principle 10 of the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* (WA) (PRIS Act). This is the first legislation in Australia to address automated decision-making, including AI.

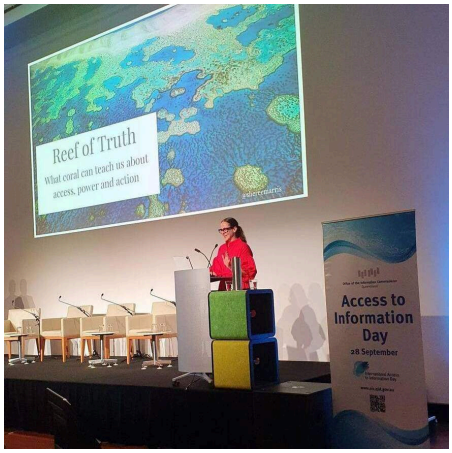
Significantly, IPP 10 provides that where important decisions about a person are made using automated decision-making processes (without much human input), risks need to be assessed to ensure harm, bias and discrimination are minimised and the requirements of the PRIS Act are complied with. Risks need to be assessed periodically, and when changes are made to automated decision-making.

IPP entities must let people know if they are using automated decision-making and there must be a process where people can request human involvement when a decision is made.

AIAC Meeting

In early October the Information Commissioner and Acting Information Access Deputy Commissioner met with members of the Association of Information Access Commissioners (AIAC), comprising Information Commissioners and Ombudsmen from Australia and New Zealand to share cross-jurisdictional learnings. In recognition of this year's International Access to Information Day's theme, they also explored how information access, particularly access to environmental information, can act as a catalyst for environmental sustainability, innovation, and public participation.

Read the full Communique issued via our website.



Solomon Lecture key takeaways

This year's Solomon Lecture hosted by the Office of the Information Commissioner Queensland was a timely reminder of the vital role information plays in building trust, collaboration and thriving communities.

As a marine biologist Sheree Marris shared insights into how access to information is at the centre of coastal sustainability.

She noted that clear and credible information needs to be accessible to combat misinformation in our digital world and delayed or withheld information can lead to irreversible harm. By building processes that openly share information it allows quick action and enhances transparency.

You can now watch the recording of the lecture on Youtube.



Annual Report 2024-25

The Office of the Information Commissioner WA's (OIC) Annual Report 2024-25 is now available online. It is the final report from the previous office. The report details key achievements and provides FOI statistics and activities undertaken. The OIC also reports on statistics WA government agencies provide about FOI applications received.

Read the 2024-25 Annual Report via our website.



Join our team

We are looking for motivated professionals who recognise the importance of privacy and information access laws in our daily lives. You'll have the opportunity to be at the leading edge in setting up privacy guidance and processes and championing effective information access in WA.

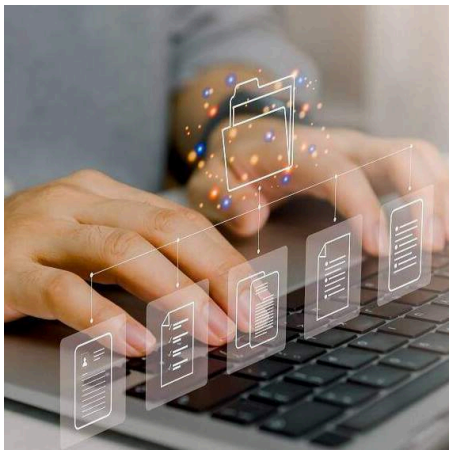
If you are interested in working in a dynamic, forward-thinking organisation, we want to hear from you.

Positions available include:

- Principal Projects Officer, Level 7
- Senior Review Officer, Level 6
- Senior Policy Officer, Level 6
- Policy Officer, Level 5
- Senior Legal, Governance & Risk Officer SC3
- Enquiry & Engagement Officer, Level 4
- Executive Officer, Level 4
- Administrative Officer, Level 3.

Applications close on 9 November 2025.

For a full list of selection criteria, position descriptions and to submit your application, visit Jobs WA.



International Open Access Week

International Open Access Week (20-26 October) is an opportunity for the academic and research community to continue to learn about the benefits of Open Access, to share what they've learned with colleagues, and to help inspire wider participation in helping to make Open Access a new norm in research. This approach has the potential to revolutionise research, benefiting academia, medicine, science, industry, and society as a whole.

For more information visit the International Open Access Week website.

Recent events

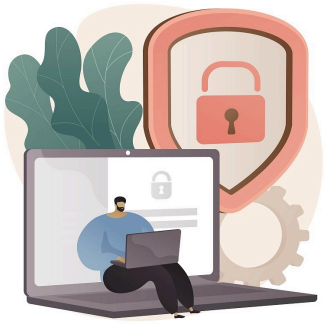


Information Commissioners and Ombudsmen at the Association of Information Access Commissioners of Australia and New Zealand (AIAC) meeting.

IAPP ANZ 2025

On 16 October the Information Commissioner provided opening remarks at the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) KnowledgeNet in Perth. This event brought together representatives from the public and private sector to explore effective communication, public education in privacy and marketing.

FOI and privacy tip of the month



Create a data inventory for your agency

A data inventory captures a record of the data elements held in systems, including its purpose, where it is stored and security arrangements. Keeping your inventory accurate and up to date is the first step to take in understanding what personal information your agency holds.



Be open by design

We encourage agencies to be guided by the Open by Design Principles. Government held information should be available for the public to access and use. Try to provide access to information outside of the FOI Act wherever possible. This can improve efficiency by reducing FOI requests while also fostering trust, addressing misinformation and improving the quality of public engagement. See our guide about Open by Design and the FOI Act for further information.

Hear from professionals working in the cyber security and information technology sector to learn about current threats and how to best protect company operations and information. The Information Commissioner will be speaking at 10:45am in the strategic leadership, risk, policy and regulation stream.

Thursday 27 November, 9am to 5pm.

FOI Fundamentals Modules

This series consists of eight online modules and is aimed at State and local government officers dealing with FOI in their agency. The material covered throughout the series includes the material from the FOI Coordinators Workshop.

Participants complete the program at their own pace at any time once enrolled.

Enrol in the course via our website.

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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.