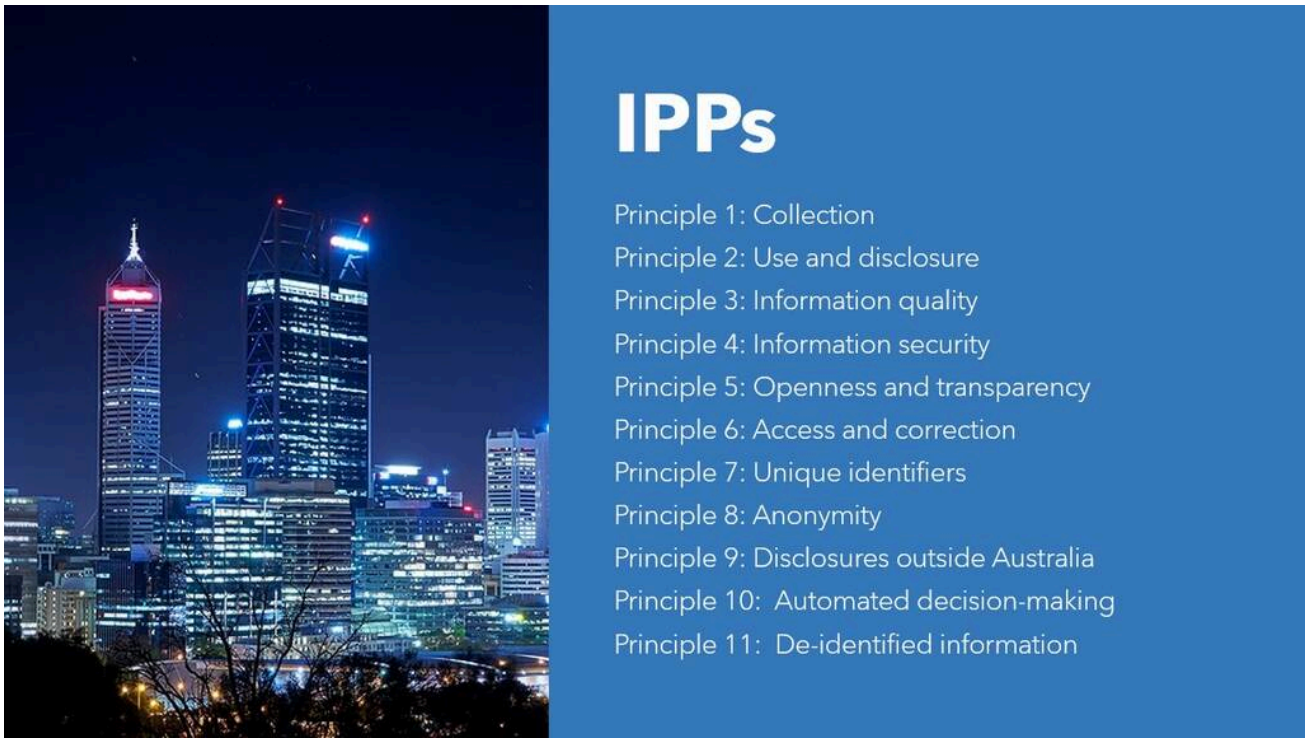
# Office of the Information Commissioner

*November 2025 - No. 4*

Having trouble viewing this email? View online

## Information Privacy Principles Summary




There are 11 Information Privacy Principles (IPPs) outlining how IPP entities must handle personal information and, in some instances, de-identified information in Western Australia. The Office of the Information Commissioner WA has released a plain English summary to give readers a basic understanding of the principles and exceptions.

Read the Information Privacy Principles Summary on our website.

To read the IPPs in full, see Schedule 1 of the Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024 (WA) (PRIS Act).

## OIC Decision: Re Harrison and the City of Joondalup

On 17 February 2022, the complainant applied to the City of Joondalup (the agency) under the FOI Act for access to a broad range of documents including phone records and text messages.

By internal review decision dated 26 April 2022, the agency confirmed its initial decision and advised further documents could not be found or did not exist. On 31 October 2025 the Acting

Information Access Deputy Commissioner found the decision of the agency to refuse the complainant access to documents, under section 26 of the Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA), was justified and confirmed the agency's decision.

The A/FOI Deputy Commissioner was satisfied the agency had taken all reasonable steps to find the requested documents and that further documents (including further text messages) either could not be found or do not exist. The A/FOI Deputy Commissioner was of the view that, requiring the agency to conduct a forensic examination of mobile phones and other electronic devices, including metadata searches, as the complainant suggested, went beyond 'all reasonable steps'.

Given the widespread use of mobile phones for communicating information by ordinary text messaging applications, social media posts and their responses (collectively 'text messages'), the A/FOI Deputy Commissioner considered it is reasonable to expect local government Council members to receive text messages that relate to the business of their local government.

Noting that good record keeping underpins the right of access to documents under the FOI Act, the A/FOI Deputy Commissioner observed that local government agencies should have policies and/or procedures outlining the steps required to capture text messages that relate to local government business into an agency's record keeping systems. This should help ensure text messages sent to or by Council members are appropriately captured in an agency's record keeping systems, and can be readily located, including in response to an FOI application.

Read the published decision online.

# Recent events




*Information Commissioner Annelies Moens presenting at the AISA PerthSEC conference.*

## AISA PerthSEC

On 27 November, the Information Commissioner gave a presentation to Perth security professionals. The Information Commissioner shared insights on the new PRIS legislation including the Information Privacy Principles and notifiable information breach scheme. She also

provided an overview of the public perception of freedom of information in WA. The PRIS legislation marks a significant uplift in expectations for security, privacy, and data-handling across the public sector. The Information Commissioner spoke to how an integrated, proactive, and risk-driven approach is needed where privacy, cyber security and data governance work in partnership to ensure transparency, trust and accountability.

## APPA Forum

On the 24 and 25 November the Information Commissioner attended the 64th APPA Forum, representing Western Australia. Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities (APPA) is a forum for privacy authorities in the Asia Pacific region. It gives privacy authorities in the region an opportunity to form partnerships, discuss best practices and share information on emerging technology, trends and changes to privacy regulation.

## CEO Forum

The Information Commissioner addressed public sector CEOs at the CEO Forum on Monday 24 November. Her presentation covered key aspects of the PRIS legislation, regulatory powers of the Office of the Information Commissioner, and how to prepare for 1 July 2026 and beyond.

# FOI and privacy tip of the month



## Providing your personal information

Before sharing personal information like your date of birth or other identifying details, make sure the entity asking for it has a reason to collect it or is legally allowed to do so. For example, in certain circumstances entities may only need to confirm you're above a certain age (such as over 18) or within a specific age range, rather than asking for your full date of birth.



## Helpful communication with FOI applicants

Clarity about what an applicant is seeking helps agencies avoid unnecessary work. Talking with an applicant can help them better understand the FOI process. Even if the scope of an access application appears clear, a conversation with the applicant may result in a more targeted or reduced scope when the process is explained. Respectful conversations about what the applicant wants, and an explanation of the kind of documents the agency holds, can contribute to more effective information access.

# Upcoming events

### IAPP ANZ Summit

The Information Commissioner will be presenting at the IAPP ANZ Summit in Sydney on 3 of December. The panel discussion “Privacy in Australia: Perspectives of Commissioners in the States” will dive into the operational differences between jurisdictions and cover privacy workflow in 2026 and beyond.

Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 December, 9am to 5pm.

### A&O Shearman Sydney

The Information Commissioner will be speaking at a round table event organised by A&O Shearman Sydney on 1 December. The Information Commissioner will discuss Western Australia's new PRIS legislation including the information privacy principles and notifiable information breach scheme.

### 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.

## 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** **Manage preferences**

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.