Office of the Information Commissioner

December 2025 - No. 5

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PRIS Frequently Asked Questions



The Office of the Information Commissioner WA has released a new online resource that addresses frequently asked questions about the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* (WA) (PRIS Act).

This resource details what the PRIS Act covers, which sections of the PRIS Act have commenced, who the PRIS Act applies to and more.

Read the frequently asked questions on our website.

Currently, a popular question amongst IPP entities is "Who is the Privacy Officer within a public entity?".

Section 151 of the PRIS Act requires that the privacy officer of a public entity is the principal officer or another senior officer.

The privacy officer is responsible for:

- promoting compliance with the IPPs and Part 2 of the PRIS Act;
- coordinating the preparation of the information breach policy and maintaining the register of notifiable information breaches;
- ensuring privacy impact assessments are conducted;
- coordinating the response to privacy complaints about the public entity;
- coordinating the public entity's dealings with the Information Commissioner, including in relation to privacy impact assessments, privacy complaints, and any investigation, monitoring or assessment conducted by the Information Commissioner.

Under the PRIS Act a 'senior officer' is 'an officer of the entity who has managerial responsibility' and includes the principal officer.

Determining which senior officer should be the privacy officer will depend on the size and structure of the public entity. Whilst there is no minimum public service level requirement for a privacy officer, they must be at a sufficiently senior level, and have the skills and knowledge, to meet the responsibilities set out in the PRIS Act. The privacy officer should be able to influence stakeholders, and effect the organisational change required to promote strong privacy governance.

Other current frequently asked questions include:

- What is the PRIS Act?
- What does the PRIS Act cover?
- What parts of the PRIS Act have commenced?
- What is an IPP entity and who does the PRIS Act apply to?
- What does the PRIS Act mean for the public?
- What are the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs)?
- Do the IPPs apply to personal information that an IPP entity already holds?
- Can I make a privacy complaint now?
- What are the functions of the Information Commissioner and the Privacy Deputy Commissioner?
- What happens when there is an information breach?
- When will the Office of the Information Commissioner WA release guidance on the PRIS Act?

Holiday Christmas Closure

The Office of the Information Commissioner WA will be closed from Thursday 25 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026.

If you submit an enquiry during this time, please expect a response after Monday 5 January 2026.

We wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year.

Recent events



WA Information Commissioner Annelies Moens, QLD Privacy Commissioner Alex White, NSW Privacy Commissioner Sonia Minutillo and Lucy Mannering.

IAPP ANZ Summit 2025

In December, the WA Information Commissioner, Annelies Moens delivered a presentation at the IAPP ANZ Summit in Sydney, offering valuable insights on Western Australia's advanced privacy legislation to both public and private sector attendees. The QLD Privacy Commissioner Alex White and NSW Privacy Commissioner Sonia Minutillo joined the WA Information Commissioner for the panel discussion “Privacy in Australia: Perspectives of Commissioners in the States”. The Commissioners explored the operational differences between jurisdictions, and privacy workflow in 2025 and beyond. This event aimed to facilitate knowledge exchange between jurisdictions, promoting a deeper understanding of privacy practices across Australia.

A&O Shearman presentation

The WA Information Commissioner also spoke at a round table event organised by A&O Shearman, discussing the PRIS legislation including the information privacy principles, notifiable information breach scheme and priorities for the OIC.

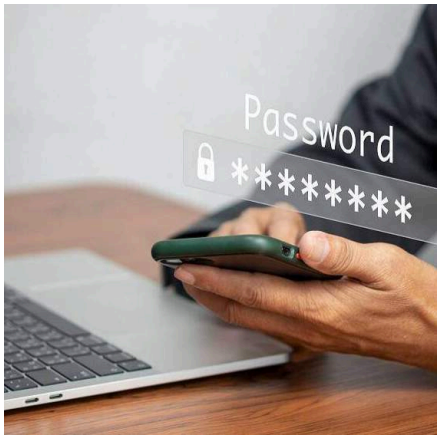
FOI and privacy tip of the month



Plan for Christmas timeframes and delays

Plan for the holiday period with a full understanding of how the timeframes in the FOI Act are calculated. Some agencies may shut down during Christmas. However, timeframes under the FOI Act are not automatically extended for agencies, applicants or third parties.

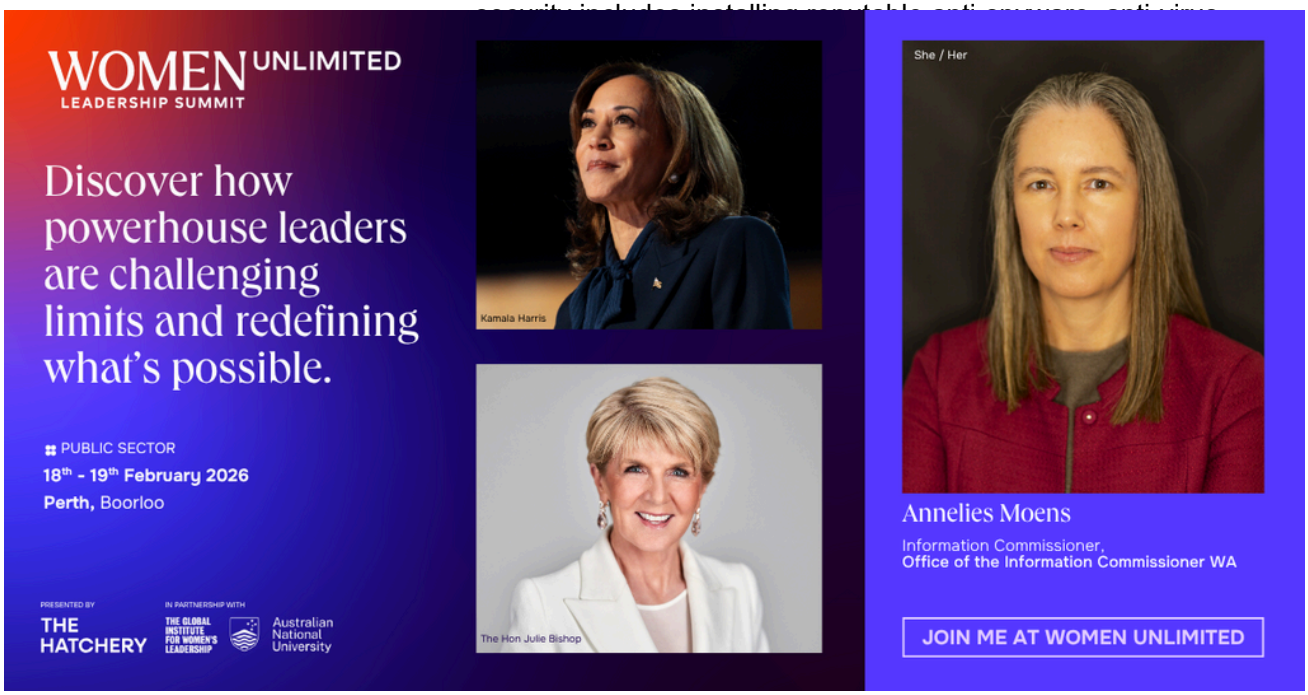
Refer to our Calculating Time and Days guide available on our website, to assist you to calculate timeframes under the FOI Act. Remember that some timeframes may be extended by agreement between an agency and the access applicant, or if approved by the Information Commissioner.



Upcoming events

Computer security check in

Using security software on your computer is one of the simplest ways to protect yourself and your privacy. Good computer



Women Unlimited 2026

Information Commissioner Annelies Moens will be presenting alongside Kamala Harris and The Hon Julie Bishop at the upcoming Women Unlimited Leadership Summit on 18 and 19 February 2026.

The event aims to inspire attendees to explore new ways of thinking about leadership in a world where boundaries are constantly shifting. This event offers unparalleled insights from those who have shaped their careers through courageous optimism, resilience and a bold commitment to progress.

The Information Commissioner will be addressing audiences at venues across Australia.

For more information about this event visit the Women Unlimited Leadership Summit 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.