Office of the Information Commissioner
Western Australia

April 2026 - No. 9

Having trouble viewing this email? View online

Privacy Awareness Week



Privacy Awareness Week (PAW) is a campaign highlighting the importance of privacy and building trust.

The OIC WA is proud to host its inaugural PAW event on Wednesday 6 May 2026 with a range of sessions tailored to Privacy Officers, PRIS Champions and heads of agencies.

This year's theme, "Smart Tech, Smarter Choices – Protecting Yourself in the Age of AI" will be reflected across State jurisdictions in Australia and amongst Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities. Some of the sessions will explore the application of WA's new privacy regulatory framework to the use of automated decision-making systems.

The Hon Dr Tony Buti, Attorney General of WA will open the event and feature a keynote address from the Information Commissioner, Annelies Moens. This will be followed by a moderated panel discussion with her Deputies, Nina Skewes and Patrick Ky.

On the day, we will also have a privacy community of practice event with agencies sharing their

experiences, a privacy train the trainer session and a roundtable for agency leaders hosted by Information Commissioner, Annelies Moens.

To register your interest and session preferences visit the event webpage.

New Privacy Policy



The Office of the Information Commissioner WA has a new Privacy Policy. The updated policy outlines how we collect, use, share and manage personal information, reinforcing our commitment to transparency trust and accountability. Each regulated entity will need to ensure their privacy policy reflects their agency's operations.

OIC WA is not required to comply with the PRIS Act, including the IPPs. However, as a matter of best practice (to support the community) and leadership (to support regulated entities), we apply the IPPs when we handle personal information.

Our approach focuses on clear communication, responsible information handling and empowering individuals to understand and exercise their privacy rights. It supports best-practice privacy management across government agencies.

Visit our website to read and download our Privacy Policy.

Upcoming events

Administrative Law Panel Discussion

Information Commissioner, Annelies Moens, is speaking at an event organised by the Australian Institute of Administrative Law on 23 April and hosted by Squire Patton Boggs. During the session, the Commissioner will share her insights on freedom of information and the Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing (PRIS) framework.

PAW Commissioner Panel Discussion

Information Commissioner Annelies Moens will join privacy commissioners from across Australia in a Privacy Awareness Week panel hosted by OVIC, *Smart Tech, Smarter Choices: Protecting Your Privacy in the Age of AI*, on Thursday 7 May at 9:00am WA time. The session will explore how regulators are responding to privacy challenges and opportunities arising from AI and emerging technologies.

Annelies Moens will be joined by acting Victorian Privacy and Data Protection Deputy Commissioner Anthony Corso, Sonia Minutillo (NSW Privacy Commissioner) and Alexander White (QLD Privacy Commissioner) for this online event.

Sign up to watch the discussion live via teams.

IAPP KnowledgeNet

Deputy Privacy Commissioner Nina Skewes will join a panel of experts at the Perth IAPP KnowledgeNet Privacy Awareness Week event, Managing ADM Complaints and Building Privacy-Aware Processes. This event is on Thursday 7 May from 3pm to 4:30pm at the City of Stirling, 25 Cedric Street, Stirling. The session will explore how agencies can respond to privacy challenges when AI-driven decision-making goes wrong, using a live, scenario-based approach. Attendees will gain practical insights into managing complaints and strengthening privacy-aware processes in high-pressure environments.

For more information and to reserve your place visit the IAPP website.

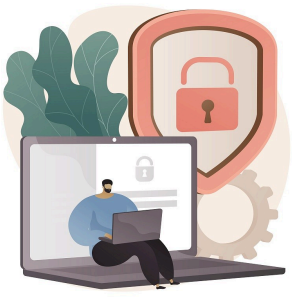
WA In-house Counsel Day

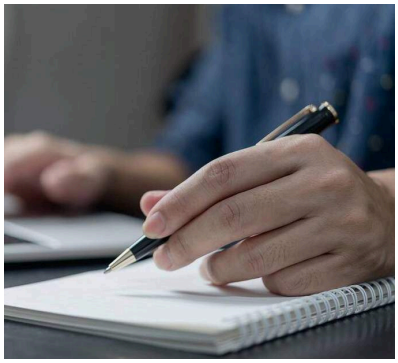
Information Commissioner Annelies Moens will open the 2026 WA In-House Counsel Day on 13 May, the annual professional development forum for in-house lawyers across Western Australia. The opening session, Navigating Privacy and Data Governance: A Conversation with the Information Commissioner, will explore the evolving privacy landscape, including data governance, regulatory change, and the introduction of the Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing framework.

The event will bring together general counsels, senior government lawyers, regulators and private sector organisations, offering a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the Information Commissioner on emerging priorities and considerations for managing personal information.

Register for tickets through the Association of Corporate Counsel website.

FOI and privacy tip of the month





Privacy policies and user consent

Privacy policies and collection notices are not an avenue for obtaining consent.

These documents play a key role in transparency and awareness, explaining how personal information is handled. However, they are informational only and do not authorise collection, use or disclosure on their own.

Where consent is required, it must be obtained separately. This is why good privacy policies and notices typically use language such as “I have read and acknowledge,” rather than “I consent.”

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

The importance of writing in plain language

Writing in plain language is an important component of providing a clear and accessible FOI process at your agency. Clearly explain why you made your decision and address all issues raised in the original request. If you write your decision with the applicant in mind, this can reduce follow-up questions or requests for review.

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.