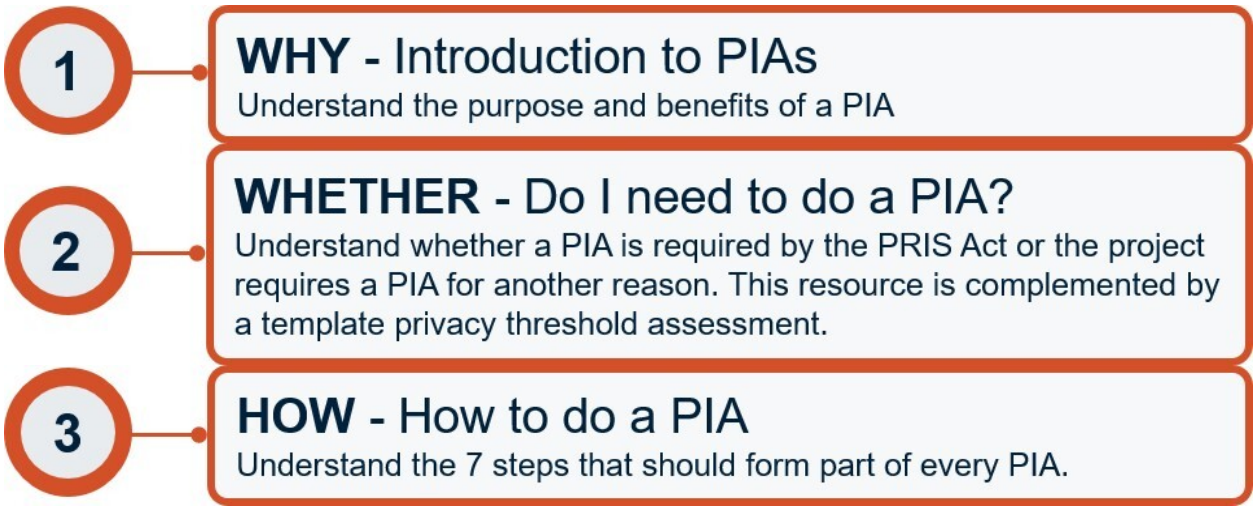
Office of the Information Commissioner
Western Australia

October 2026 - No.15

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Privacy Impact Assessment guidance



The Office of the Information Commissioner WA (OIC WA) has published a suite of three resources to help Western Australian public sector entities and their contracted service providers (IPP entities) understand why, whether and how to conduct a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA).

A PIA is a scalable tool for identifying, assessing and mitigating privacy risks.

The *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* (WA) (PRIS Act) requires IPP entities to undertake a PIA in certain circumstances. The OIC WA also encourages IPP entities to undertake a PIA to understand privacy risk exposure and identify how they meet or don't meet their obligations under the Information Privacy Principles (IPPs).

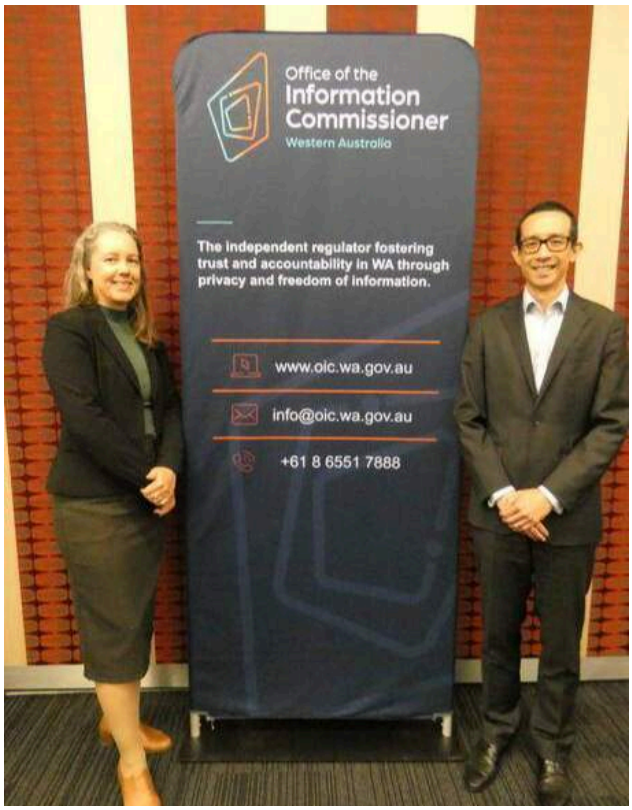
Please click below to find the resources on our website:

1. WHY: Introduction to PIAs

2. WHETHER: Do I need to do a PIA?

3. HOW: How to do a PIA

Thank you to those stakeholders who provided feedback.



FOI - International Access to Information Day 2026

In recognition of International Access to Information Day, OIC WA hosted an event on 30 September where the Information Commissioner, Annelies Moens, spoke about recently released state-wide FOI statistics and the importance of FOI and the role of FOI officers.

Patrick Ky, the Information Access Deputy Commissioner spoke about trends in FOI faced by both agencies and the OIC WA, and some strategies for dealing with the challenges presented by the changing landscape of FOI in WA.

For more information and to read the Information Commissioner's opening remarks, please visit our website:

International Access to Information Day 2026

FOI decisions

Re LS3 and North Metropolitan Health Service [2026] WAICmr 23

In this decision, the Information Access Deputy Commissioner considered section 28 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (WA), which allows access to documents containing medical or psychiatric information to be given through a registered medical practitioner rather than directly to the applicant. Generally, access can be given in this way where direct access may have a substantial adverse effect on the applicant's physical or mental health.

The Deputy Commissioner observed there are 3 questions to consider when considering whether an agency can rely on section 28:

1. Do the disputed documents contain medical or psychiatric information about the applicant?

2. Did the agency's principal officer, at the relevant time, form the opinion that disclosing the documents directly to the applicant may have a substantial adverse effect on the applicant's physical or mental health?

3. Were there reasonable grounds for the principal officer's opinion?

Of particular interest in this matter, the complainant argued the documents were created in the context of another individual's treatment and care. However, the Deputy Commissioner noted this did not mean the documents could not also contain medical and psychiatric information about the complainant. Any such information was covered by section 28, even though the documents related to another person's care.

Ultimately, the Deputy Commissioner confirmed the agency's decision to give access to the disputed documents in accordance with section 28.

Read the full decision here.

Other recent decisions:

Re CF1 and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions [2026] WAICmr 21*:* Whether documents relating to a workplace grievance are exempt under clause 3(1) (personal information).

Re KB7 and Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions [2026] WAICmr 22*:* Whether documents relating to a workplace grievance fall outside the scope of an access application where the applicant agreed to exclude third-party personal information and prescribed details of agency officers.

Upcoming events

IPAA WA Public Service Leadership Conference – 11 November

Nina Skewes, the Privacy Deputy Commissioner will be joining a panel discussion at the IPAA WA Public Service Leadership Conference 2026, AI's impact on women: Ethics, leading through revolution. To register click below:

Women in Public Service Leadership - IPAA Western Australia

HR Partnership Group – 12 November

Keely Thomson, Manager Privacy Policy will be speaking to Human Resource leaders from across the WA public sector on the privacy aspects of CI6 and Human Resources Minimum Obligatory Information Requirements (HR MOIR) Data – which data is mandatory and which is optional.

Local Government Alliance Meeting – 20 November

Patrick Ky, the Information Access Deputy Commissioner will give a presentation and answer questions at the Local Government Alliance Group Meeting in November.

Previous events

Curtin Corner Update on JCIPP Website – 9 October

Please click below to watch a recording of the Commissioner's presentation on: 'The privacy and Freedom of Information (FOI) landscape in WA'



FOI and Privacy tip of the month

Privacy in Western Australia

Privacy - Tell staff the collection of sensitive personal information is voluntary

In the WA public sector, agencies are required to report workforce data to the Public Sector Commission. This information is generally collected from employees during on-boarding and includes information about employees' ethnic origin, language background, and disability status.

This information is sensitive personal information under the PRIS Act and can only be collected with employee consent. When collecting this information, agencies must tell employees why they are collecting it, how it may be used or disclosed, how the employee can access information provided, and that providing the information is optional or voluntary in line with the Public Sector Commissioner's instructions and the PRIS Act.

Freedom of information in Western Australia

FOI - Be cautious about processing large applications in stages

When considering whether to refuse to deal with a large or voluminous access application under section 20 of the FOI Act, agencies should be cautious about processing a large request in stages.

A staged approach to processing that spreads the workload over time may not address the overall burden of the application.

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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.