



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

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MEDIA RELEASE

12 July 2012

Australian Privacy Foundation: 25th Year Milestone

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) will turn 25 on 28 July this year. Started as a reaction to the first attempts at establishing a national identification card in 1987, the organisation has earned the position as Australia's leading privacy advocacy group.

As an all-volunteer group of professionals, representing backgrounds as varied as law, technology, health, and public service, the 15 member board works diligently to keep abreast of a full range of public policy developments and legislative changes that impact the civil liberty areas of privacy and surveillance. Our submissions and consultative participation reads like an alphabet soup of government policy change:

- PCEHR – Personal Control Electronic Health Record, and ehealth programs generally
- ANPR – Automated Number Plate Recognition
- ABS – Australian Bureau of Statistics census and Compulsory surveys
- Airport body scanning
- CCTV Surveillance
- Improper use of biometrics
- Social media privacy abuses – Facebook and Google
- Smart Grids and Smart Meters
- Removal of anonymous road toll collection options
- Identity scanning at nightclubs
- Workplace surveillance and substance abuse testing

The most recent efforts have been on interpreting the latest proposed amendments to the Commonwealth Privacy Act, which is considered to be one step forward, two steps back.

To help us in our quest, the foundation has established an advisory panel of eminent Australians, with our newly named patrons of The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG and The Hon. Elizabeth Evatt AC. A full list of the panel is available at <http://privacy.org.au/About/AdvisoryPanel.html> .

The APF wears its responsibilities proudly, asking our leaders to think more carefully about their obligations toward human rights in general and privacy in particular. Our goal is to have better policy for all of us.

For more information about the Foundation and its efforts, please visit our website at <http://privacy.org.au/>

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Available for Interviews