



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

---

enquiries@privacy.org.au

<http://www.privacy.org.au>

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**5 September 2013**

### **The Libs' Sneaky Claim for a Mandate to Filter**

With less than 2 days to go before the federal election, the Coalition has announced a highly inappropriate policy in relation to Internet Filtering.

"Why so late?", asks APF Vice-Chair, David Vaile.

"It's almost as if the Liberal Party has something to hide, isn't it? It's so late that, already, **up to 1 million people have already committed their vote, without being aware that the Liberal Party may now try to claim a mandate for a filter**".

The Liberals say that they are following a policy of the UK conservative government, involving "major internet service providers providing home network filters for all new home broadband services, which will be switched on as the default unless the customer specifies otherwise".

"Will they undertake a proper investigation of all of the issues before they act?", asks Vaile.

"Certainly, parents are concerned about various things that their children access on the Internet", he continued.

"But designing a filter that works is fiendishly difficult. This announcement almost certainly offers false hope to parents. Worse still, a leaky filter, that parents think actually works, will demonstrate to kids that their oldies are clueless – which undermines the respect, trust and rapport on which successful parenthood depends".

On the reasonable assumption that all policies were in place on 18 August, the APF published an analysis of all Parties' policies relevant to privacy, i.e. over two weeks ago.

The challenges APF set are here: <http://www.privacy.org.au/Papers/ECF-2013.html>  
Each Party's score is here: <http://www.privacy.org.au/Papers/ECF-2013-Scores.html>

The APF has now had to reduce the Liberal Party's score for Item 8 from 2/5 to 0/5.

**"The Liberals now score 9 / 100 for their privacy policies"**, said APF Chair, Roger Clarke. "That's even less than the Nationals at 13 / 100, and Labor at a miserable 22 / 100".

Only the Greens and the Pirate Party, each with 89/100, are decisively supportive of civil liberties generally, and privacy in particular.

Contacts for This Media Release:

Roger Clarke, Chair  
David Vaile, Vice-Chair

chair@privacy.org.au – (02) 6288 6916  
d.vaile@unsw.edu.au – 0414 731 249