



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

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mail@privacy.org.au

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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**4 December 2013**

### **Complaint Filed with Spy Authorities**

A complaint has been filed with the Australian Inspector-General of Intelligence Security.

It calls for an immediate investigation into deeply troubling reports that the Australian intelligence services offered to violate the privacy rights of millions of citizens by handing over bulk metadata to its Five Eye partners.

Australian lawyer, Carly Nyst, Head of International Advocacy for Privacy International, said that "the ASD are violating their own Rules to Protect the Privacy of Australians, as well as the Intelligence Services Act 2001".

That law prescribes that "an agency must not undertake any activity unless the activity is necessary for the proper performance of its functions; or authorized or required by or under another Act".

PI's Media Release is at:

<https://www.privacyinternational.org/press-releases/privacy-international-files-complaint-with-australian-spy-authorities-over-five-eyes>

A copy of the complaint is at:

[https://www.privacyinternational.org/sites/privacyinternational.org/files/downloads/press-releases/igis\\_complaint.pdf](https://www.privacyinternational.org/sites/privacyinternational.org/files/downloads/press-releases/igis_complaint.pdf)

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) is the country's leading privacy advocacy organisation. A brief backgrounder is attached. See also <http://www.privacy.org.au>

Privacy International is a UK-based public interest organisation which fights for the right to privacy across the world. See <https://www.privacyinternational.org/>

Contacts for This Media Release:

Carly Nyst, PI Head of International Advocacy – +44 (0) 7788 286 389 , [carly@privacy.org](mailto:carly@privacy.org)  
Roger Clarke, APF Chair – (02) 6288 6916 [Chair@privacy.org.au](mailto:Chair@privacy.org.au)

## Australian Privacy Foundation

### Background Information

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF) is the primary national association dedicated to protecting the privacy rights of Australians. The Foundation aims to focus public attention on emerging issues that pose a threat to the freedom and privacy of Australians. The Foundation has led the fight to defend the right of individuals to control their personal information and to be free of excessive intrusions.

The APF's primary activity is analysis of the privacy impact of systems and proposals for new systems. It makes frequent submissions to parliamentary committees and government agencies. It publishes information on privacy laws and privacy issues. It provides continual background briefings to the media on privacy-related matters.

Where possible, the APF cooperates with and supports privacy oversight agencies, but it is entirely independent of the agencies that administer privacy legislation, and regrettably often finds it necessary to be critical of their performance.

When necessary, the APF conducts campaigns for or against specific proposals. It works with civil liberties councils, consumer organisations, professional associations and other community groups as appropriate to the circumstances. The Privacy Foundation is also an active participant in Privacy International, the world-wide privacy protection network.

The APF is open to membership by individuals and organisations who support the APF's Objects. Funding that is provided by members and donors is used to run the Foundation and to support its activities including research, campaigns and awards events.

The APF does not claim any right to formally represent the public as a whole, nor to formally represent any particular population segment, and it accordingly makes no public declarations about its membership-base. The APF's contributions to policy are based on the expertise of the members of its Board, SubCommittees and Reference Groups, and its impact reflects the quality of the evidence, analysis and arguments that its contributions contain.

The APF's Board, SubCommittees and Reference Groups comprise professionals who bring to their work deep experience in privacy, information technology and the law.

The Board is supported by Patrons The Hon Michael Kirby and Elizabeth Evatt, and an Advisory Panel of eminent citizens, including former judges, former Ministers of the Crown, and a former Prime Minister.

The following pages provide access to information about the APF:

- Policies <http://www.privacy.org.au/Papers/>
- Resources <http://www.privacy.org.au/Resources/>
- Media <http://www.privacy.org.au/Media/>
- Current Board Members <http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Contacts.html>
- Patron and Advisory Panel <http://www.privacy.org.au/About/AdvisoryPanel.html>

The following pages provide outlines of several campaigns the APF has conducted:

- The Australia Card (1985-87) <http://www.privacy.org.au/About/Formation.html>
- Credit Reporting (1988-90) <http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/CreditRpting/>
- The Access Card (2006-07) [http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID\\_cards/HSAC.html](http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/ID_cards/HSAC.html)
- The Media (2007-) <http://www.privacy.org.au/Campaigns/Media/>