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MEDIA RELEASE

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Productivity Commission Sucked in by Business and Government

The Productivity Commission has reported on Data Availability and Use.

The Report recognises that Australians should have control of their personal information.

The Commission agrees that privacy is much less about secrecy and much more about the control of personal information.

The Commission also acknowledged that trust is critical to any exploration of data use.

Unfortunately, **the Commission has failed to address the risks and harm that happen when personal information is released or misused.**

Kat Lane, Chair of the Australian Privacy Foundation responded that "It is impossible to have a meaningful discussion about data use because **Australians need a statutory right to redress and compensation when their data is released or misused without permission.**"

"The report also fails to address the seemingly endless instances of data breach that can cause harm ranging all the way from inconvenience to suicide".

Ms. Lane asked "How can Australians trust any proposal to increase data availability when **there is no effective plan to incentivise government and business to make sure that data is managed securely and fairly?**"

The Commission has also uncritically adopted propaganda to the effect that there is no evidence of widespread public concern about government abuse of data.

This is despite many surveys showing that concern, despite continual instances of leaks and malpractice that generate flurries of public disquiet and media coverage, and despite the strong and clear submissions made by less-well-funded advocacy groups that represent the public interest, rather than the interests of government and business.

APF's **Submission:** <http://privacy.org.au/Papers/ProdCo-Data-160729.pdf>

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