



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

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MEDIA RELEASE

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SIR ZELMAN COWEN PRIVACY ESSAY COMPETITION

The Australian Privacy Foundation (APF), the main civil society organisation dedicated to protecting the privacy rights of Australians, is pleased to announce the winner of the inaugural Sir Zelman Cowen privacy essay competition.

The competition is named in honour of the late Sir Zelman Cowen, a former Australian Governor-General (1977-82), and the first patron of the APF. The competition has been made possible by the generous support of **Gilbert+Tobin** Lawyers.

The winner is **Jake Goldenfein, a doctoral student at Melbourne Law School**, for his essay entitled 'Privacy in Fact and Fiction: The Importance of Access to the Archive', which examines the privacy implications of criminal information systems. The APF congratulates Jake, who will be awarded \$1,000.

According to David Lindsay (Monash Law School), the convenor of the competition, the high calibre of submissions in the first year of the competition shows the strong interest of emerging scholars and young Australians in privacy issues.

As Associate Professor Lindsay explained, "The Privacy Foundation is concerned to promote understanding and debate about the important role privacy plays in protecting the rights of Australians. The Sir Zelman Cowen national essay competition is an important part of our work in raising the profile of privacy in Australia, especially at a time when the right to privacy is threatened on many fronts".

The members of the judging panel – **Elizabeth Evatt AC, Julian Burnside AO QC, and Professor Dan Svantesson** – were impressed by the high standard of essays submitted, and had difficulty in separating the finalists.

The other finalists in the competition were:

- Emma Grant, from UNSW Law School, for an essay on UK privacy law, and
- Beatrix van Dissel, from Adelaide Law School, for an essay on privacy and social media

All three essays will be published in Australian law journals.

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Board Member, Australian Privacy Foundation

Australian Privacy Foundation

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>

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With a focus on dynamic and evolving market sectors, we work on transactions and cases that define and direct the market. Gilbert + Tobin has become the legal adviser of choice for industry leaders who value our entrepreneurial culture and determination to succeed.