

19 June 2008

Nigel Waters
Australian Privacy Foundation
Company
GPO Box 1196
Sydney NSW 2001



Dear Nigel,

Thank you for your letter about privacy issues.

I am a little confused why you would write to me and copy both the email and letter to an extensive list of diverse recipients. It is unclear whether you are seeking comment from those recipients or providing visibility to your correspondence.

Issues of privacy and issues which have actual or potential privacy impacts are not 'deliberately excluded' at Communications Alliance. Your letter is short on detail on the issues which you say are excluded and what amounts to an 'accumulated backlog of privacy issues'. As I read the letter, your point relates to process. Your submission is that Communications Alliance's alleged deficiencies in respect of non-specific privacy issues would be addressed by re-establishing a standing committee at Communications Alliance.

I had anticipated that the letter to Communications Alliance which you flagged at the Consumer Stakeholder Forum in Canberra would be to advise what role the Australian Privacy Foundation would be fulfilling in the proposed new peak consumer representative body and the mechanisms you would be seeking to implement in order to provide for enhanced engagement with industry on privacy issues. In my view, the creation of such a body provides an opportunity for widening the access to consumer input on the whole suite of issues which Communications Alliance engages in on behalf of its members and the industry. The way forward is a stronger representative body of consumers, rather than the creation of numerous issue-specific standing groups at different stakeholder organisations.

I have specifically requested our Consumer Council, of which Teresa Corbin is the Chair, and the Disability Council, to provide me with advice on how it is envisaged the new body would operate, including its objectives and the arrangements for engagement with industry and other stakeholders.

**COMMUNICATIONS
ALLIANCE LTD**

Level 9
32 Walker Street
North Sydney
NSW 2060 Australia

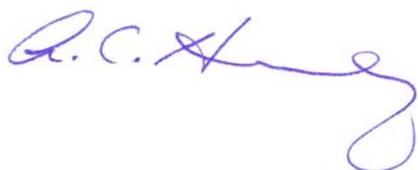
P.O.Box 444
Milsons Point
NSW 1565

T 61 2 9959 9111
F 61 2 9954 6136
TTY 61 2 9923 1911
www.commsalliance.com.au
ABN 56 078 026 507

I would welcome it if you could work with CTN to include in its advice back matters of relevance relating to representation and engagement on privacy issues.

I conclude with the assurance that privacy issues and issues which have actual or potential privacy impacts remain of integral importance in the work program of Communications Alliance. We have responded positively to the recommendations of the ALRC pertaining to the role of Communications Alliance in regulation of privacy in the telecommunications, we will continue to fulfil our legislative requirement to consult with the Office of the Privacy Commission in respect of industry codes submitted for registration to ACMA, and we look forward to working closely with the peak federated consumer body once established.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. C. Hurley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anne Hurley
Chief Executive Officer
Communications Alliance