



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

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**Proposed new ID verification: Draft  
Telecommunications (Service Provider –  
Identity Checks for Prepaid Mobile  
Carriage Services) Amendment  
Determination 2014 (No.1)**

**Submission in response to Department of  
Communications Consultation Paper**

**November 2014**

***The Australian Privacy Foundation***

The Australian Privacy Foundation is the main non-governmental organisation dedicated to protecting the privacy rights of Australians. The Foundation aims to focus public attention on emerging issues which pose a threat to the freedom and privacy of Australians. Since 1987, the Foundation has led the defence of the right of individuals to control their personal information and to be free of excessive intrusions. The Foundation uses the Australian Privacy Charter as a benchmark against which laws, regulations and privacy invasive initiatives can be assessed. For further information about the Foundation and the Charter, see [www.privacy.org.au](http://www.privacy.org.au)

Please note that APF does not have a single postal address – we prefer communication by e-mail. If a postal address is required please contact the signatory.

***Publication of submissions***

We note that we have no objection to the publication of this submission in full. To further the public interest in transparency of public policy processes, APF strongly supports the position that all submissions to public Inquiries and reviews should be publicly available, except to the extent that a submitter has reasonable grounds for confidentiality for all, or preferably part of, a submission.

**Submission**

APF welcomes the introduction of two new alternative methods of verification of the identity of customers of prepaid mobile carriage services (prepaid mobile services).

These alternatives will not only reduce the administrative burden on consumers and on businesses, but will also reduce the degree of extra privacy intrusion involved in acquiring a new mobile phone service.

We note that some law enforcement agencies have opposed the first new alternative (reliance on existing client status) but that ACMA has addressed this by limiting the reliance to 2 years (with an exception to the two year time limit where a financial account continues to be linked to the existing service for automatically recharging the existing service). This seems like a reasonable compromise, and we strongly oppose any further concession or change to the Draft Determination Amendment.

The proposed two year review of the 2013 Determination will allow for experience of the new alternatives to be assessed.

Our support for these two new alternative methods should not be taken as overall support for the identification regime – you will be aware from our previous submissions that we regard the current requirements as disproportionately intrusive and unnecessary – we will revisit these arguments in the context of the forthcoming review.

Contact for this submission

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**Australian Privacy Foundation, November 2014**

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