

From: John McMillan [John.McMillan@oaic.gov.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 December 2011 8:41 AM
To: Dan Svantesson
Cc: Timothy Pilgrim; 'nigelwaters@pacificprivacy.com.au'
Subject: inquiry [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Associate Professor Svantesson

I am writing concerning a quote attributed to you in an article in SMH online on 13 Dec, in which you express a professional legal opinion on Australian privacy practice ('Hunter the Horrible: the net nasty who vows to strip you bare'). The article concerns a website that appears from the article to be based in the US, and that seems also to publish information that is available on public websites as well as information provided privately by other people. You are quoted in the SMH article as saying:

Dan Svantesson, an associate professor in law at Bond University and a spokesman for the Australian Privacy Foundation, said the site was a reminder of the risks of sharing sensitive information electronically. "For Australians to have any hope of keeping some level of privacy in our online world, we need stronger legal protection, a more active approach from the privacy commissioner and a more privacy friendly attitude from those sites that ask us to trust them with our personal information, such as Facebook," he said.

I exercise all the functions and powers conferred by the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). I would be grateful if you could point me to the specific provisions of the Privacy Act that I should be exercising in relation to the website referred to in the above article.

Yours sincerely

John McMillan

Prof John McMillan | Australian Information Commissioner
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