

Our Ref: F-13-016

27 October 2010

Dr Roger Clarke  
Chair  
Australian Privacy Foundation  
chair@privacy.org.au

Dear Dr Clarke

### **The Privacy Policies of Australian Universities**

Thank you for your letter of 14 April 2010 regarding the privacy policies of Australian universities.

Australia's universities are committed to respecting the privacy rights of staff and students.

Each Australian state and territory regulates the management of personal information. In NSW, Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria, ACT and Northern Territory personal information is regulated by legislation. South Australia and Western Australia prefer to use primarily administrative regimes. Depending on their jurisdiction, universities are required to comply with either the federal Privacy Act (in the ACT) or the state-based legislation or administrative regimes in the other states and territories.

The differing provisions in federal and state privacy requirements mean that each state's universities have different issues to deal with. Thus it comes down to individual university responses to their situation and their individual administrative arrangements with staff and students.

The issues raised in the Australian Privacy Foundation paper on *The Privacy Policies and Practices of Australian Universities* have been drawn to the attention of the Deputy and Pro Vice-Chancellors (Corporate) at their meeting on Friday 8 October 2010. Drawing on the feedback provided by this group, I wish to provide the following response to the two issues raised by the Foundation.

### **IT Usage Policies**

Universities at the institutional level have policies of acceptable use, and monitor compliance with these policies which comply with federal and state legislative requirements. These services are provided to staff as work facilities.

## The Outsourcing of Services

Cloud computing solutions are a developing technology that is increasingly being taken up in the corporate sector. Universities considering moving to cloud computing solutions will necessarily undertake risk assessments as they would do for any other major project and such risk assessments would include legal/regulatory compliance issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Glenn Withers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Glenn Withers AO  
Chief Executive Officer