



[www.privacy.org.au/bba](http://www.privacy.org.au/bba)



**Australian  
Privacy  
Foundation**

## 2005 BIG BROTHER AWARDS

Media enquiries:

David Vaile, vice-chair

Australian Privacy Foundation

Tel: 0414 731 249

[vicechair@privacy.org.au](mailto:vicechair@privacy.org.au)

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Big Brother Awards – Shortlist of privacy invaders announced

3 November 2005

The short-listed nominations for the annual *Big Brother Awards* were announced today.

“The *Big Brother Awards* are for corporations, public officials and governments that have shown a blatant disregard for Australians’ privacy,” said Australian Privacy Foundation Chair, Anna Johnston.

The Awards are hosted by the Australian Privacy Foundation, the leading non-government organisation dedicated to protecting the privacy rights of Australians. The winners will be announced at a ceremony in Melbourne next Tuesday evening.

“This year it is a truly outstanding field,” said Ms Johnston. “There has been no shortage of candidates.”

“Everything from drastic changes to our Census data, to the introduction of biometric passports – and even the ‘mouldy oldie’ idea of an Australia Card – has been bandied about this year. We’ve seen a woman’s private medical records disclosed to the media, and repeated examples of unauthorised releases of personal information from Victoria Police”, she said.

Short-listed nominees for 2005’s **Privacy Invader** awards also include:

- the collection of patient records from GPs, for sale to pharmaceutical companies
- a proposed national student identity number, to track students from kindy to uni
- the employee surveillance policy of a major telecommunications company
- proposals to link health records without the patient’s consent
- the use of home phone numbers for direct marketing and data-matching

“We also applaud those people who have made a major positive contribution to protecting the privacy of Australians – often by standing up to the Government” said Ms Johnston. “And just like the Privacy Invaders, the nominees came from across the political spectrum,” she said.

The short-listed nominees for 2005’s positive **Privacy Defender** awards are:

- ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope, for posting the draft *Anti-Terrorism Bill* on his website
- Federal backbench MP Stephen Ciobo, for being the first Coalition MP to speak out against the idea of a national identity card
- Senator Natasha Stott-Despoja, for sparking the Senate review of the *Privacy Act*

~ end of release ~

For more information, see:

- the Australian Privacy Foundation : [www.privacy.org.au](http://www.privacy.org.au)
- the international Big Brother Awards : [www.bigbrotherawards.org](http://www.bigbrotherawards.org)

The *Big Brother Awards* have with no relationship to the TEN Network TV program of a similar name.