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Key dates

4–6 Nov 31st International
 Data Protection and
 Privacy Conference
 11 Nov Privacy Victoria
 Network Meeting
 11 Nov Privacy and Councils
 Meeting
 17 Nov Public Records/
 Privacy Training–
 Wangaratta
 18 Nov Introduction to the IPA
 Training–Melbourne

Links

Public Record Office Victoria
www.prov.vic.gov.au

31st International Data
 Protection and Privacy
 Conference
www.privacyconference2009.org

New Zealand Privacy
 Commissioner
www.privacy.org.nz

Cybersmart Resources
www.cybersmart.gov.au



Privacy Commissioner, Helen Versey with the members of the Youth Advisory Group

Privacy Victoria Network Meeting

The next meeting of the Privacy Victoria Network will be held on Wednesday 11 November at the Department of Transport Theatre, level 5, 121 Exhibition Street. A major focus of the meeting will be privacy compliance issues relating to contracted service providers. [RSVP here.](#)

Privacy and Councils

The next Privacy and Councils meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 November 2009 at Privacy Victoria. [RSVP here.](#)

Upcoming Training Regional Public Records/ Privacy Sessions

Privacy Victoria and the Public Record Office Victoria are conducting these free one-day training sessions:

Wangaratta **Tuesday 17 Nov**
Sale **Friday 27 Nov**

To register for any session email training@privacy.vic.gov.au.

Free Introduction to the Information Privacy Act Sessions at Privacy Victoria

Wednesday 18 Nov
 Thursday 3 Dec
 Tuesday 15 Dec

To register for any session email training@privacy.vic.gov.au.

Youth Advisory Group

The first meeting of Privacy Victoria's Youth Advisory Group on 16 October was productive and informative. Thirteen young people from Melbourne and regional Victoria discussed privacy issues of relevance and discussed ideas for raising privacy awareness for people their age. The Group will be meeting again before the end of the year.

Don't leave privacy to chance

The popular privacy wheel distributed during Privacy Awareness Week 2009 is now available online. [Spin the privacy wheel](#) for practical tips about faxing, emailing, posting and more.

31st International Privacy Conference

Privacy Victoria is participating in the [31st International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners](#) being held in Madrid, Spain 4-6 November. The conference theme is *Privacy: Today is Tomorrow*.

NZ CCTV Guide

The New Zealand Privacy Commissioner has released [new guidance on how businesses, local government and other agencies can use CCTV](#) (camera surveillance systems) while still protecting privacy.

The new guidance material gives businesses and agencies practical and easy-to-read advice about such things as:

- deciding whether CCTV is right for them;
- planning the system properly;
- selecting appropriate technology and positioning cameras;
- making employees, customers and others aware that CCTV is operating;
- storing and retaining the images; and
- giving people access to images of them.

2008/09 Annual Report

Privacy Victoria's [2008/09 Annual Report](#) is due to be tabled in Parliament on Tuesday November 10. It will be released online once tabled. Hard copies can be ordered from enquiries@privacy.vic.gov.au or by telephoning 1300 666 444.

Victorian 2009 Privacy Awards Finalists

Three Victorian organisations are [Finalists in the Australian Privacy Awards](#). Mildura Rural City Council and the Department of Justice are Finalists in the Symantec Government Category, while Windermere Family Services is in contention for the Community and NGO Category Award. The Awards will be presented in Sydney on 12 November.

Attitudes to Online Personal Information

The Australian Communications and Media Authority has released [a report that explores changing community attitudes and practices in dealing with their personal information online](#).

Chris Cheah, Acting Chair of the ACMA said "Encouragingly, the report has found that awareness of the potential risks of providing

personal information online was high among adults, and they want to protect themselves. Most users identified identity theft as the most severe risk associated with disclosing personal information online. Other risks of concern include unwanted communications such as spam, financial loss, fraud, damage to reputation and invasion of privacy."

However, the report also identified that many of these users often did not know specifically what to do to protect themselves and that they found technological change difficult to keep up with. They also often do not know who to ask for assistance or advice.

Cybersmart Resources

[Cybersmart](#) provides activities, resources and practical advice to help young kids, kids, teens and parents safely enjoy the online world. Cybersmart also offers training and resources for schools and materials for library staff.

Developed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, Cybersmart is part of the Australian Government's cybersafety program.

Privacy Victoria Network

The [Privacy Victoria Network \(PVN\)](#) facilitates and encourages information exchange about the *Information Privacy Act*, and privacy issues more broadly, within the Victorian public sector.

Membership

PVN membership is open to Privacy Managers, Privacy Officers/Contact Officers, or staff with equivalent responsibilities within state government departments and agencies, statutory authorities and local councils. Other interested public sector staff are also invited to join.

Member benefits

Privacy Victoria Network members are able to attend the three Network meetings held in March, July and November each year. They also receive the monthly *Privacy Victoria Network eNews*.

Return the [registration form](#) to join.

New Queensland Commissioners Wanted

The Office of the Information Commissioner in Queensland is [seeking applications for two key positions](#).

The Privacy Commissioner is employed under the *Information Privacy Act 2009* and the Right To Information Commissioner is employed under the *Right To Information Act 2009*. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor-in-Council for maximum of five years. The closing date for both roles is Monday 16 November 2009.

Million Dollar Spam Penalties

Last month, the Federal Court in Brisbane imposed a total of 15.75 million dollars in penalties for contraventions of the *Spam Act 2003*, following the Australian Communications and Media Authority's first court action taken against unsolicited SMS messages.

In August 2009, two companies and three individuals were found, by default judgment of the Court, to have contravened the *Spam Act* and the *Trade Practices Act 1974*. [More detail on the case is available online](#).

Australians are encouraged to report spam to the [ACMA](#) by visiting the website at www.spam.acma.gov.au or calling 1300 855 180.

2010 Conference

The Call for Papers for the 21 May 2010 Children, Young People and Privacy Conference closes Friday 15 January 2010. A full conference program will be released in early February 2010.

Privacy Photo of the Month



Here Again by Segev Cohen

Want to share a privacy photograph?

Email the original photograph to enews@privacy.vic.gov.au. By submitting the photograph to eNews you grant Privacy Victoria the right to reproduce it only in this publication. Photographers will be credited, unless anonymity is requested.

Newsworthy

Teacher, student 'off their faces' on Facebook

Education Queensland has ordered a teacher to remove a Facebook post from an apparently underage former student who joked about them both getting drunk at the weekend.

The girl's "inappropriate" post illustrates how contact between teachers and students on social networking websites can be fraught with difficulties.

In October, Education Queensland banned all state school educators from using such sites to communicate with past and present pupils, forcing teachers to delete from their private pages any content deemed inappropriate.

Alarm bells on used mobiles

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reports that mobile phones that are lost, stolen or recycled are exposing thousands of people every week to identity fraud, largely because their owners neglect to take simple steps to protect their private information.

Britons Weary of Surveillance in Minor Cases

The *New York Times* reports on a case in Britain where a private citizen was surveilled by local authorities. "It has become commonplace to call Britain a 'surveillance society,' a place where security cameras lurk at every corner, giant databases keep track of intimate personal details and the government has extraordinary powers to intrude into citizens' lives" the paper reports.

Banks send customers' personal details overseas

The Brisbane *Courier Mail* reports that angry customers are urging the Federal Government to stop the big banks from sending their personal details to offshore processing centres. A national poll has found 83 per cent want the banks to seek written permission from their customers before sending confidential data overseas.

Aussies favour fingerprinting to prove Identity

The *Herald Sun* reports on a Newspann poll which finds that more Australians would be happy to offer their fingerprints to prove their identity as concerns over internet security rise.

Post office privacy fears

The *Herald Sun* reports that Australia Post is introducing new technology that will enable staff at its 4,443 retail outlets to take fingerprints, biometric scans and digital signatures from customers applying for bank accounts, passports and other services.



Photo www.retail.australiasquare.net

'Spy van' proposed by Melbourne City Council

The *Herald Sun* reports that city ratepayers will shell out for a CCTV vehicle to roam the CBD and provide video evidence against violent offenders. The van will feed vision into the council's already extensive CCTV control room, available for police to use.

Facebook is 'gold' for identity thieves

Ninemsn reports that social networking sites such as Facebook are "gold" for identity thieves.

Teen 'stalking' Jetstar attendant stood down

The Age reports that a male flight attendant accused of contacting a 15-year-old girl via Facebook has been stood down.

Big Brother is watching you as you shop

Face recognition, behaviour analysing surveillance cameras, biometric profiling and the monitoring and storing of our shopping patterns has made snooping into our habits, movements and private lives ever easier.

Dismayed at its shrinking power to market to us via traditional media or even the internet, the private sector is now proposing to reach potential customers in ways that critics say should have us all concerned, reports the BBC.

Woman Loses Job Due to Error in FBI Criminal Database

A Maryland woman lost her accounting job after a background check performed through the FBI's criminal database indicated, erroneously, that she was unsuitable for the job, according to the *Baltimore Sun*.

ACT Health Implements IDs for ACT Patients

The National E-Health Transition Authority reports that patient records

from the key patient registration sources systems will be linked in the PMI in such a way that ACT Health services and systems operating across institutional boundaries can identify a patient by any or all of the multiple patient identification records.

Burglars Selected Celebrity Targets from Social Networking Sites

Ninemsn reports that a gang of burglars who targeted homes belonging to celebrities including Lindsay Lohan and Paris Hilton had compiled a database of more than 50 luxury mansions, selecting their celebrity targets by scrutinising entertainment websites to determine whether their victims were likely to be at home.

Angry Keating demands changes to privacy laws

Enraged by what he regards as an invasion of his family's privacy, former prime minister Paul Keating has called for the rewriting of Australia's privacy laws reports *The Age*.

Tough identity theft law passed in Canada

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reports that the Canadian government has passed tough new legislation to give police and courts added powers to fight identity theft.

About eNews

Privacy Victoria Network eNews is published monthly by the Office of the Victorian Privacy Commissioner and sent by email to members of the Privacy Victoria Network. The material in *Privacy Victoria Network eNews* is intended only to inform. It should not be relied on as legal advice. Material is compressed and simplified for newsletter purposes and should not create expectations about how the Privacy Commissioner may deal with any specific matter in particular circumstances under the *Information Privacy Act 2000 (Vic)*.

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